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Near East & South Asia

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Delegations Depart From Amman After Summit

JN0111193995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic on 1 November carries in its 1800 GMT main newscast reports on the departure of heads of delegations who took part in the Amman Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit. These include:

1. Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boukaber.
2. Ahmad Quray', minister of economy in the Palestinian National Authority.
3. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister (Tian Sing Be).
4. Japanese Ambassador to Syria Minoru Kubota.
5. 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Hanif, under secretary of the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry.
6. Bahraini Minister of Trade Salih al-Salih.

EU Opposed to New Middle Eastern Bank

MS0211114295 London THE EUROPEAN in English 2-8 Nov 95 p 17

[Report by Yaroslav Trofimov: "Europe Split Over Bank For Middle East"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Plans to set up a $5 billion regional development bank for the Middle East and North Africa have hit a snag after European Union nations disagreed over the need for the institution.

The bank, which is supposed to become the Middle Eastern equivalent of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, was strongly backed by the US, Israel and the main potential beneficiaries, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian authorities. But France, Germany, Britain and most other EU nations rejected the plan, according to diplomats, because of financial considerations and a desire to curb US political dominance of the Middle East and Mediterranean region.

Speaking at the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman, the French industry minister, Yves Galland, declared that Paris will not contribute to the planned bank's capital. "Let us avoid setting up a mechanism that would not be operational for a long time and that would do the same job as existing institutions," Galland said.

The German minister of the economy, Gunther Axelrod, agreed: "Establishing (the bank) now will postpone the launching of large- scale projects which could be carried out immediately."

Only three EU members, Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands, came out in favour of the bank's creation. "A politically visible and economically viable financial institution is important," said the Italian foreign minister Susanna Agnelli.

Although US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced the bank's official creation at the Amman summit, the institution, which would be based in Cairo, is not expected to start functioning for at least two years, as it is unlikely that it could collect the necessary capital without participation by the EU and Gulf Arab nations, which still do not want to have direct dealings with Israel.

In an attempt to counterbalance the US influence in the region, EU nations plan to launch an alternative regional financial body at the EU/Mediterranean conference of 27 countries in Barcelona at the end of this month — to which Washington is not invited.

"The people who want to set up the bank never hid that it was meant to be a political symbol, which is legitimate," said Ariane Obolensky, vice-president of the European Investment Bank. "If a new institution is needed, it is more for some niche in private finances than for classical lending," she added.

Nicolas Constantinesco, Middle East manager for French bank Paribas, was more upbeat. "This new bank is needed because it will fulfill functions that commercial lending institutions cannot — as the EBRD does in eastern Europe."

At the Barcelona summit Syria and Israel will be at the same table for the first time since the present troubles in the Middle East began. This will be a diplomatic success for a three-country EU delegation which visited both countries ahead of the Amman meeting. All eastern and southern Mediterranean countries which have trade agreements with the EU will be attending.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Considers Minisummit on U.S. Embassy Move

NC0211073295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that the Arab League might call for an Arab minisummit to discuss the recent U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In statements yesterday evening, 'Abd-al-Majid said the holding of an expanded Arab summit is not possible now, noting that there are contacts under way to convene a minisummit.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Secretary Outlines Agenda for Meeting

LD2810223795 Riyadh SPA in English
1954 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Oct 28 (SPA) — Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Saturday paid rich tributes to custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz for the unlimited moral and material support being extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support various activities of the OIC and affiliated bodies.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to King Fahd for patronizing the recent celebration of the OIC on its silver jubilee.

Dr. Algabid made the remarks in a speech before the opening session of the preparatory meeting held by OIC senior officials for the upcoming Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers in Conakry, Guinea next month.

He highlighted the topics to be discussed by the 23rd Conference of the OIC Foreign Ministers which be held on December 9th through December 13, 1995, which will deal with extemporary issues of the Islamic world and the efforts being made by the OIC to face the challenges. He said the agenda of the meeting will include 50 topics concerning organizing and political issues, mainly the causes of Afghanistan, Somalia, the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, situation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, situation of al-Quds and the occupied territories, and the recent resolution of the U.S. Congress on shifting the U.S. embassy to al-Quds.

Dr. Algabid said the agenda of the meeting also tackles the oagoing Israeli occupation of South Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights besides matters pertaining to the resolutions adopted by the Third Conference of the OIC Ministers of Information.

The representative of the Republic of Guinea was elected as chairman of the session and representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan were elected vice chairmen while a Moroccan one was named as a reporter.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Main Battle is Battle Over Jerusalem

JN0111111395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Nov 95 pp 32, 25

[Report by Kamal Zakarinah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, has stated that Jerusalem is a red line on all levels, including the political, financial, and demographic level, and that the main battle is the battle over Jerusalem.

At a meeting with Palestine National Council [PNC] members and representatives of Jerusalem institutions in Amman yesterday to discuss the U.S. Congress decision on the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, 'Arafat said that the letter of assurances we the Palestinians and the Arabs received from former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker containing a commitment not to carry out any changes on the status of Jerusalem in any field has not been respected at all by the Americans and the Israelis. The letter of assurances and the agreement we signed with the Israelis stipulate that no changes should be made in Jerusalem before the negotiations are completed.

'Arafat added: Those who visit Jerusalem these days will be surprised at the cement blocks and bastions Israel established around Jerusalem from all sides.

'Arafat stressed that Jerusalem cannot be rescued with speeches and slogans but with practical steps and measures on the ground through all available means so that we might not lose it.

'Arafat said that a decision was made by UNESCO to carry out restoration work in all of the Old City of Jerusalem with Saudi financing. We, in the Palestinian Council of Ministers, decided to start restoration work without any delay.

'Arafat said: All Jerusalem inhabitants should return to live in the city. This can be done only through cooperation and the formulation of a wise action plan in which we will all participate. He added: We opened a press and information office for brother Radwan Abu-'Ayyash in Jerusalem against Israel's will. Some time ago, a misunderstanding took place with the Islamic Bank. King Fahd, the custodian of the two Holy Mosques, had transferred $30 million to us for restoration and reconstruction work in Jerusalem. However, the sum was transferred to other parties for building houses for the professors of Bir Zayt and al-Najah Universities and only part of the sum was left for Jerusalem. He added: I immediately sent a letter to the Islamic Bank and to His Majesty King Fahd since this sum was earmarked for the immediate construction of 15,000 housing units in Jerusalem. Since the sum was allocated for Jerusalem, I had hoped that the Islamic Bank, instead of taking away a large part of this sum, would double it.

The Palestinian president added: This error was corrected and the final decision was made to build these housing units.

'Arafat said: We imposed on the Israelis an electoral constituency in Jerusalem in terms of voting and nomination. Five election centers were established in Jerusalem. Al-'Ayzariyah, Abu- Dis, and other centers are within this Jerusalem constituency. History will record that the Hebronites contributed to saving Jerusalem because a large number of them live in Jerusalem.

President 'Arafat said that the agreement the PLO and Israel signed in Washington affirms that the Arab part of Jerusalem does not belong to Israel and that it is a Palestinian electoral constituency. This is the second most important victory we scored at Taba. The first victory was wresting Hebron and the second victory was holding elections in Jerusalem. This means actual implementation of Palestinian sovereignty on the ground. This was the result of two years of difficult talks with the Israelis. This does mean that they will not create new problems.

'Arafat said that the Arab state of affairs is deplorable. The international situation is more so. You now see the U.S. 'rhinoceros' decide with a sweeping majority to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

President 'Arafat added: This decision cannot be halted by a Palestinian meeting, measure, or demonstration, but we should turn the world upside down on the Arab, international, Islamic, and Christian levels. Fire should be confronted with fire, and iron with iron.

'Arafat continued: I agreed with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali, whose country chairs the Jerusalem Committee, to directly and intensively work for Jerusalem and confront the U.S. Congress decision, beginning with the United Nations and ending with the oldest house repaired in Jerusalem. A decision was made in this regard and distributed by Filali and 'Abd-al-Majid.

The Palestinian leader said: The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Arab Parliamentary Union must move and work out a comprehensive plan of action to cancel the U.S. Congress decision. The ESCWA [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia] delegate pledged to work for halting the decision. I sent a delegate to the patriarch of Istanbul for the same purpose. I also agreed with the Vatican to hold religious festivities in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

President 'Arafat asserted that there will be no peace without Jerusalem. He said: We are facing inside Israel what the Algerian brethren faced following their agreement with De Gaulle. The difference, however, is that, in the Algerian case, there was De Gaulle, whereas we do not have De Gaulle now, and Rabin is also close to the gang of generals.

He pointed out that the battle is now fiercer than the 1982 siege of Beirut, and that we should be ready to confront all these forces. He said: All should know that inside Israel there is a serious trend which rejects the agreement, and that the five Arab votes in the Israeli Knesset achieved a majority in favor of the agreement.

'Arafat added: We should also realize the seriousness of the battle, which requires us to strongly reciprocate on the ground and not through slogans. We should also create an Arab, Islamic, and Christian inferno to save Jerusalem, and we will win, God willing.

He continued: The Israelis will not make concessions if we are not present on the ground. We did so in the old city of Hebron where we decided to repair all the old houses and reside in them. This should also be done in Jerusalem, and we have actually started to do so, despite the need to obtain [Jerusalem mayor] Olmert's approval to repair Arab houses in Jerusalem.

'Arafat added: However, we will move on the international, Arab, Islamic, and Christian levels for this purpose. I told the Vatican: There should not be only a few Christians in Jerusalem, because this will prompt the Israelis to turn the holy places into museums.

The Palestinian president said: The EU is with us, and President Clinton rejects the Congress decision. The Chinese position is very honest, and the Russian position is good and it supports us. The work and activity for Jerusalem should not stop.

'Arafat called for setting up a consultative committee which will be in direct contact with him to put him in the picture as developments take place.

Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu- 'Ala', said that Jerusalem is a religious, political, economic, social, demographic, and cultural issue. We can protect Jerusalem, and any misbehavior on our part will adversely affect us. The economic situation is also very important, he added.

Quray' continued: Despite the fact that Israel is deliberately imposing a security cordon on Jerusalem, this cordon could not undermine Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic character. He said that the funds of the PLO and the National Authority are insufficient because there are large obligations and needs for Jerusalem. He pointed out that trade activity in Jerusalem is almost completely stagnant due to the security cordon Israel is imposing. The institutions, especially the health ones, in Jerusalem are suffering from acute shortages of everything.

Quray' said that maintaining people's steadfastness in Jerusalem is a basic issue. He called for building a demographic cordon to isolate the Israeli settlements from Jerusalem and not to permit these settlements to isolate the Palestinian residential areas in the Jerusalem area from the city itself. This requires an international, Arab, and Islamic position in support of the Palestinian position and policy, he added.

PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun said: We, Muslims and Christians in the PNC and the Jerusalem organs, have met together because we have rights, holy places, prayers, and mosques which have been subjected to attempts at annexation, demolition, excavations, and fires since 1967.

Al-Za'nun added that the U.S. Congress decision seeks U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. He called for unifying the Arab, Islamic, and Christian efforts to confront the threat posed by this decision.

He said: In the name of the PNC, we hope that this meeting will be followed by other meetings which will group everyone, including the opposition, so we will tell the truth without fanaticism and away from arguments in the interest of Jerusalem and the homeland.

The meeting was attended by 'Umar al-Khatib, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman; Marwan Kanafani, media spokesman for President Yasir 'Arafat; and other Palestinian officials.

'Permanent Committee' Formed To Defend Jerusalem

JN0111160295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A permanent committee for the defense of Jerusalem was formed in Gaza Strip today. The committee includes representatives of the Fatah movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union], the Palestinian People's Party, and the Arab Liberation Front.

The representatives of these political forces held a news conference at the headquarters of the Palestinian Journalists Association in Gaza today to discuss the dimensions of the U.S. Congress' decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. The participants considered the Congress' decision a violation of UN and Security Council resolutions and urged peace-loving governments and peoples to move to press U.S. President Bill Clinton for blocking the decision.

Masses Attend al-Shaqaqi Funeral in Syria

JN0111185995 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 1 Nov (SANA)—The Palestinian masses in al-Yarmuk refugee camp today participated in the funeral of martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, at the Martyrs Cemetry in the camp.

The martyr's wife, Mrs. Fathiyah al-Shaqaqi, delivered a speech in which she praised the virtues of the deceased, as well as his militant qualities and sacrifices for the sake of the homeland.

Many speeches were also delivered commending the militant march of martyr al-Shaqaqi and criticizing the policies of capitulation and relinquishment which some Palestinian leaders have assumed.

The speakers pledged to the martyr to continue struggling to liberate the Palestinian soil.

Iran's Jannati, Islamic Leader Meet at Funeral

LD0211093495 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA — Ayatollah Jannati, personal representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution who attended funeral ceremonies of the late Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Damascus, Wednesday met with the new secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement (IJM) Ramadan 'Abdallah and conveyed to him the condolences of the people and officials of the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Jannati said that the freedom loving Muslims of the world were equally shocked at that catastrophe, adding that no trace of Islam could possibly have been found in the region had it not been for the Jihad and the anti-Zionist movement of Muslim Palestinians.

He said that the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamen'ei, had declared Wednesday an international day for mourning the martyrdom of al-Shaqaqi which, he said, was a token of the special attention of the leader of the Islamic Republic and of its people to the situation in Palestine.

Meanwhile, Ramadan 'Abdallah said that martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi had lofty goals not only for the people of Palestine, but for the whole Muslim world as well. h1}New Islamic Jihad Leader on al-Shaqaqi's Death

Vows 'Revenge' at Funeral

JN0111203195 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following a grand funeral procession, Martyr leader mujahid Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, was laid to rest at the Martyrs Cemetery in the al-Yarmuk camp, south of Damascus, today. Our correspondent in Damascus says that the funeral procession marched from the al-Muwasah Hospital in Damascus at 1030 today toward the al-Yarmuk camp, where tens of thousands of our people were gathered since the early morning to await the arrival of the martyr's funeral procession. [passage omitted]

Leading the funeral procession were Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council and head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the central committee of Fatah-the Uprising; 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization-the al-Sa'qah Forces; Ramadan 'Abdallah, the martyr's successor and secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Revolutionary Party; Talal Naji, PFLP-GC assistant secretary general; Fadl Shururu, secretary of the PFLP-GC Political Bureau; Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Muhammad Nazzal, member of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; 'Umar al-Shihabi, member of the PFLP-GC Political Bureau; Muhammad Khalifah, assistant secretary of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization-the al-Sa'iqah Forces, and member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Abu-Khalid al- 'Amlah, assistant secretary general of Fatah-the Uprising; Tariq al- Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] at the head of a number of PLA officers; and a group of Alliance of Palestinian Forces leaders and cadres. Also marching at the forefront of the funeral procession were Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizaballah at the head of a Hizbollah delegation; Yusuf Faysal, secretary general of the Syrian Communist Party; representatives of the Lebanese nationalist parties and forces; Ahmad al-Jallud, secretary of the Libyan popular Arab office in Damascus; and the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus. The Islamic Republic of Iran was represented at the funeral by Ayatollah Ahmad Janati, representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution; Hojjat ol-Elsam Muhammad Ali Taskhiri, member of the Leader's Private Visit and assistant minister of guidance; Hojjat ol-Eslam Masih Mohajeri, representative of the Iranian president; Hojjat ol- Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foroughi, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Zada, the Iranian ambassador in Lebanon. Also attending were representatives of the Arab and friendly liberation movements in Damascus and a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors. [passage omitted]

Finally, Ramadan 'Abdallah, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement and martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi's successor, delivered the movement's speech. He said: Was not anybody who met Fathi al- Shaqaqi impressed by his eloquence? Who knew this knight who loved a mare with the name of Palestine? In this age of momentous changes and disintegrations, the man who understood the equation of Islam, Palestine, and jihad is an extraordinary politician whose name is Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

In his speech, Ramadan said: We reject all the agreements of shame and disgrace. We reiterate the pledge to you, martyr. We tell you: Jerusalem is ours in spite of the traitors and capitulationists. We have a rendezvous with revenge.

Threatens Israel's Rabin

JN0111182795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramadan 'Abdallah Shallah, new secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, threatened Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin directly today. He said that Rabin will pay a high price for the assassination of al-Shaqaqi. Ramadan 'Abdallah Shallah leveled the threat during the burial ceremony of Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Damascus. The funeral was attended by tens of thousands of people.

Sends Message to Khamene'i

NC0111185495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of Islamic Jihad in Palestine, Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah, the new secretary general of the movement, sent the following message to Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord. They rejoice in the bounty provided by

God; and with regard to those left behind, those who have not yet joined them in their bliss, the martyrs glory in the fact that on them is no fear, nor have they cause to grieve. [Koranic verses]

To His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and guardian of the Muslim nation, may God preserve you.

With a heart full of resignation to the destiny ordained by God, we condole you and congratulate you on the martyrdom of your exceptional son, the dear offspring of the great Islam, the pious leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

The martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, may he be received in God's pleasure, was a bearer of the beacon of sacrifice, beneficence, noble values, and the Islamic creed. During his life, he made plans for the great Islamic renaissance. In his heart, he carried the burden of the Islamic nation's sufferings and concerns but also the dream of its bright future. He worked tirelessly to fulfill the promise of this future.

The Zionist culprits believed that by assassinating Dr. Fathi al- Shaqaqi, the symbol of beneficence and jihad, they will succeed in extinguishing the flaming torch that lights the path of Palestinian Islamic jihad. Those vile people will know, however, that you cannot extinguish God's light.

The blood of our martyr and the teacher of our struggle will open new horizons to us that will lead our steps to Jerusalem, thus fulfilling the divine promise of victory for the great Islamic nation.

Great leader, in my own name, on behalf of my brothers in the Islamic Jihad movement, and on behalf of the wronged Palestinian people, we bring you the glad tidings that your loyal son has made his journey to the heavens to be with the Almighty and condole you on the loss of this martyred hero. At the same time, we pledge to God and to you that we will follow the footsteps of the departed martyr. We will remain loyal to his chaste blood and pursue with perseverance the path of Islamic revolution to liberate Palestine and Jerusalem without concessions, weariness, or discouragement.

We pray to God, may He be praised and exalted, to protect you and guide your steps and preserve you as a fount of beneficence for the Islamic nation and Palestine.

[Signed] Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine
[Dated] This day, the 6th of Jumada al-Thaniyah, 1416 of the Hegira, corresponding to 31 October 1995

'Sources' Implicate Libya in al-Shaqaqi Plot

MM0111144695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

["Exclusive" report by Salih Qallab: "Palestinian Circles: Intelligence and Political Deal Behind Fathi al-Shaqaqi Assassination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Just as every assassination operation against any senior Palestinian leader over the past 30 years had behind it a complex, multifaceted police and intelligence story involving many factors, the assassination operation against Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, in Malta last Thursday is no different.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, obtained after thorough investigation since Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi's assassination, indicates that the Islamic Jihad Movement leader did not want to visit Libya— the visit which ended with him falling into the Israeli Mosad's trap during his stopover on the Mediterranean island of Malta, which has become almost the only outlet for Libya since the international blockade was imposed on it as a result of the Lockerbie incident.

The information says that the Syrian authorities had told Dr. al- Shaqaqi following the Beit Lid suicide operation — which was carried out by the Islamic Jihad Movement in the heart of Israel in January this year and resulted in the death of some 20 Israeli soldiers — to be cautious, reduce his sphere of movement, and change his accommodation for a new residence kept under surveillance by the security organs in Syria.

According to the information, it seems that Dr. al-Shaqaqi, who is described as very cautious by nature, suspected that the Syrian authorities wanted to put him under something like house arrest, perhaps at a U.S. request in the light of Washington's demand that Damascus close the offices of what U.S. officials term Palestinian "terrorist" factions in the Syrian capitals.

A senior Palestinian official belonging to one of the rejectionist Palestinian factions has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Dr. al-Shaqaqi established later, only after hesitation, that the Syrian request that he reduce his sphere of movement was in his own interest and aimed at preventing Israeli organs from eliminating any Palestinian leaders on Syrian territory. On that basis, he kept a low profile at meetings, public gatherings, and with the media.

The official, a close friend of the Islamic Jihad Movement, said that after the Syrian warning and the threats issued by Israeli officials following the Beit Lid suicide operation, Dr. al-Shaqaqi substantially reduced his sphere of movement and made only a few secret visits to Lebanon and Iraq, in addition to some semi-public visits to Iran.

According to the official, Dr. al-Shaqaqi was fully confident that it would be impossible for the Israeli Mosad to carry out an assassination attempt in Damascus, Tehran, or Baghdad. This is why he avoided making any visits beyond this circle. Because he knew full well that after the Beit Lid operation his name was on the list of those wanted by Israeli intelligence organs.

According to the information provided by this official, Dr. al- Shaqaqi, in view of his security fears and concerns, refused to respond to Libya's invitation to join the Palestinian rejectionist factions' delegation attending the 1 September celebrations. The Palestinian official said that Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi spoke to him over the telephone about a week before his assassination, criticizing him for the "severe" statements issued by the official's organization — which rejects and is opposed to the peace process — against Libya because of its expulsion of thousands of Palestinians from Libyan territory in the recent expulsion and deportation campaign.

The official said that he told Dr. al- Shaqaqi that it was not possible for Palestinian factions, especially the rejectionist Palestinian factions, to keep silent about the tragedy afflicting the Palestinian people's sons living on Libyan territory. And that what Colonel al-Qadhdhafi did serves the policy pursued by the PLO leader vis-a-vis the peace process in the Middle East, not the rejectionist policy against this orientation.

The official pointed out that Dr. al-Shaqaqi was viewing things from the Iranian angle and that he adopted a flexible position toward Tripoli following the deportation campaign against the Palestinians there. And that he was actually taking account of Tehran's position and Iran's special relations with Libya.

According to more than one story, Libya, under media pressure due to the deportation campaigns against the Palestinians, invited the general secretaries of the 10 Palestinian rejectionist factions to visit Tripoli to meet with Col. al-Qadhdhafi and discuss with him the deportation issue, which had assumed serious Arab and international dimensions.

The information says that leaders of the 10 Palestinian factions based in Damascus held a number of meetings to discuss the possibility of accepting the invitation, and that for fear that what happened to Imam Musa al-Sadr in the famous incident could happen to them, they agreed to assign Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC], to travel to Libya to talk on their behalf with Col. al-Qadhdhafi and other Libyan officials.

Specifically, Dr. al-Shaqaqi said that he could not move from his place in Damascus, on the basis of security reasons and requirements. Hamas expressed its wish not to go to Libya for numerous political reasons. The Popular Front and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] said that they could not accept the invitation in question, in protest against Col. al-Qadhdhafi's refusal to receive their representatives on the periphery of the 1 September celebrations.

The information says that several times the Libyans stressed over the telephone the need for Dr. al-Shaqaqi to respond to this invitation on the pretext that Col. al-Qadhdhafi wanted to discuss an important question with him. Every time, Dr. al-Shaqaqi's excuse was that he could not go to Tripoli until Libya revokes the decision to deport thousands of Palestinians from its territory.

The information says that many leaders of the Palestinian rejectionist factions were surprised when Dr. al-Shaqaqi traveled with two officials from these factions, namely Muhammad Sa'id Muraghah (Abu-Musa), secretary of Fatah, and Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC, contrary to what had been agreed in previous meetings.

It is reported among Palestinian circles that Dr. Fathi al- Shaqaqi, who traveled from Damascus to Valletta, Malta, then Tripoli, using a Libyan diplomatic passport in the name of Ibrahim 'Ali al-Shawish, clashed [istadam] with Col. al-Qadhdhafi and exchanged harsh words with him at their meeting, which was attended by Talal Naji, Abu-Musa, and some Libyan officials. The issue of the Palestinians' deportation from Libyan territory was discussed at the meeting.

The circles wonder why the two Palestinian officials, namely Talal Naji and Abu-Musa, returned on their own from Tripoli to Damascus, leaving Dr. al-Shaqaqi behind in Libya, when they knew full well that he had feared assassination and that he hesitated greatly before embarking on the visit because of his security fears.

It is said among leading Palestinian circles that the Libyan authorities were supposed to provide full protection for Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi from the moment he arrived in Tripoli until his arrival in Malta. And that he should not have been left alone in Malta, a Mediterranean island whose doors are open to all intelligence services of the globe.

Moreover, leading Palestinian circles say that the background to Dr. al-Shaqaqi's assassination, after the invitation to visit Libya and his two stopovers in Malta, proves that this Palestinian official was the victim of a well-contrived intelligence plan in which time will reveal that more than one quarter was involved.

In this context the circles list the following points:

— Dr. al-Shaqaqi, who returned from Libya to Malta by sea, was left without any protection or escort.

— Dr. al-Shaqaqi's closest friends did not know that he was holding a Libyan passport or that the name on the passport was Ibrahim 'Ali al-Shawish. The proof of this is that the leaders of the Islamic Jihad Movement knew of his assassination only two days later, even though the Maltese authorities had announced on Thursday 26 October 1995 the murder of a Libyan citizen carrying a diplomatic passport in that name.

— Libya should have realized that the assassinated person was Dr. al-Shaqaqi the minute the Maltese authorities announced the murder of a Libyan citizen with the name in question. And the Libyan authorities should have hastened — the minute the assassination operation was announced — to inform leaders of the Islamic Jihad Movement of the murder of the movement's secretary general.

It is worth mentioning that it still has not been established whether Dr. al-Shaqaqi had just arrived from Libya when he was shot in front of a hotel in Valletta or whether he was leaving the island of Malta. Nor has it yet been established whether the Libyan Embassy had knowledge of his return.

Perhaps further light is thrown on the circumstances of the assassination operation by the fact that the senior Islamic Jihad Movement officials who had expected Dr. al-Shaqaqi to return from Libya via Malta on Thursday afternoon went to Damascus airport at the specified time to receive their secretary general. And that when they found out that he was not aboard the plane coming from Valletta, they contacted his uncle in Tripoli to ask him the reason for the delay, but he confirmed to them that al-Shaqaqi had left Libya and that he was supposed to travel on the plane that left the island of Malta for the Syrian capital.

Then the Islamic Jihad Movement officials contacted the "appropriate quarters" in Libya to inquire about Dr. al-Shaqaqi and ask whether he had left Libya or not. The reply was: "We do not know whether he has left for Malta or whether he is still on Libyan territory."

The officials also contacted the Maltese Interior Ministry to inquire about the identity of the Libyan citizen whom Maltese authorities had said was assassinated on Thursday morning. But the Maltese authorities declined to provide any information on the grounds that no information should be provided in such cases to unknown and unofficial quarters.

So the leaders of the Islamic Jihad Movement decided to send a delegation to Malta to determine the real identity of the Libyan citizen assassinated on Thursday morning. After arduous efforts, the delegation was able to persuade the Maltese authorities to respond to its request. This is how the delegation ascertained that the murdered person was Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the movement's secretary general.

According to the Palestinian circles' information, Libyan authorities insisted on receiving Dr. al-Shaqaqi's body as though it were the body of Libyan citizen Ibrahim 'Ali al-Shawish, and insisted on not allowing the Islamic Jihad Movement officials to move their colleague's body to Damascus.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who said that there is a big "conspiracy" behind the assassination of the Islamic Jihad Movement leader and declined to make any statement about the "conspiracy," tried to persuade Egypt or Tunisia to move Dr. al-Shaqaqi's body through either's border with Libya and to persuade the Israeli authorities to allow his body to be buried in Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

The questions being asked among Palestinian circles focus on the following:

— Has the assassination of Dr. al-Shaqaqi any link with the well-known Lockerbie case and the possibility of lifting the blockade imposed on Libya?

— Was it negligence alone that led to the Palestinian official's assassination in such a manner, or was there some kind of deal behind the operation?

— Are the gaps through which the perpetrators infiltrated limited to the low levels of the quarters concerned, or do they also involve higher levels and senior officials?

These are questions which need to be answered. However, it is certain that Dr. al-Shaqaqi was the victim of a deal among a number of intelligence organs, along the lines of what has happened in the past in the assassination operations that have claimed the lives of more than one Palestinian official over the past three decades of Palestinian resistance.

Al-Shaqaqi Death 'Turning Point' in 'Revolution'

LD0211110495 Tehran IRNA in English
1015 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA — The assassination of the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, will be "a turning point in the history of the Palestinian Islamic revolution," Palestinian Ambassador to Iran Salah al-Zawawi said.

In an interview with the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES, printed on Thursday, al-Zawawi stressed that Palestinian combatants will avenge the death of al-Shaqaqi who died in the hands of agents of the occupier Zionist regime.

He further thanked the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, and the entire Muslim Iranian nation for the sympathy they have shown to the Palestinian nation over the martyrdom of al-Shaqaqi.

Fathi al-Shaqaqi achieved martyrdom last Thursday when a gunman opened fire on him in Malta. His assassination by the Zionist intelligence agency (Mosad) has brought waves of hatred for the Zionist regime's terrorist activities inside Palestine and abroad.

The supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, in a message issued on the martyrdom of al-Shaqaqi warned that the martyr's bloody death will escalate the Islamic revolution of Palestine.

A message by al-Shaqaqi's wife issued in Damascus, Syria, says that al-Shaqaqi's assassination has further strengthened the will of the Palestinians to move forward with Jihad.

Writers Union Condemns al-Shaqaqi Killing

JN0111150495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The General Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists today condemned the crime of assassinating Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement, in Malta recently. The federation called for unity among the forces of the Palestinian people to continue armed resistance and to topple the Oslo agreement and the so-called self-rule authority.

In a statement, the unionist action committee of the Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists called on the Arab masses to resist all the current forms of capitulation, no matter how much that may cost, by rejecting normalization and combating joint projects [with Israel]. The committee said the martyrdom of al- Shaqaqi should prompt strugglers and free ones to cement their unity and insist on achieving the Palestinian people's aspirations for liberation and victory against their enemies.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes Near Gaza Settlement

JN0211061395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A booby-trapped car exploded near the Kissufim settlement in the northern Gaza Strip this morning, wounding several people. No further details are available.

'Double Explosion,' Casualties Reported

NC0211061995 Paris AFP in English 0542 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 2 (AFP) - A double explosion on the Gaza Strip caused many casualties early Thursday, military sources reported.

They said the blasts occurred near the Kissufim checkpoint between Israeli territory and the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsbility

TA0211072695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a message delivered to Palestinian correspondents in Gaza, the Islamic Jihad assumes responsibility for the two attacks in the Qatif Bloc this morning. Eight Israelis were slightly wounded in the attacks. The two terrorists who carried out the attacks were apparently killed.

The security forces are currently defusing another explosive charge discovered on the Morag road. The area is sealed off to traffic. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports 'Heroic Operation'

JN0211082095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following: From the Palestine of steadfastness comes the reply. From the Palestine of martyrdom and martyrs comes the reply to the savage Zionist crimes in retaliation for the blood of the martyrs of Palestine and the blood of martyr hero Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. From Palestine comes the reply to the ill-omened Balfour Declaration. From Palestine comes the reply to the defeatists and traitors.

In initial reports this morning, our correspondents at the scene of the incident in the heroic Gaza Strip said two car bombs exploded this morning on the Kissufim road between the rebellious Gaza Strip and the Zionist settlements on the one hand, and the usurper Zionist entity on the other. Initial reports say the first car ran into a Zionist bus carrying a large number of the criminal Zionist settlers from the city of al-Majdal. Our correspondents said the resounding explosion completely destroyed the bus and killed or wounded a large number of the Zionists. Palestinians near the scene of the incident say they were woken up this morning by the sound of huge explosions. Our correspondents said a large number of the enemy soldiers, Zionist policemen, and the so-called border police were deployed in the area, in addition to a large number of ambulances.

Our correspondents have learned that the hero who carried out the operation and whose name is still unknown, has ascended to the heaven of glory and immortality as a result of his heroic operation on the Kissufim road in the rebellious Gaza Strip this morning.

Israel Closes Jericho Area After Attack on Settler

JN0111144495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation troops closed the Jericho area this morning and banned Palestinians from entering the city after an attack on an Israeli settler in Ramallah.

Meanwhile, the occupation authorities are allowing citizens to leave the city.

In Ramallah and al-Birah, the occupation troops reinforced their presence and closed the main road linking Ramallah to Jerusalem, where the incident took place.

'Arafat: Attack Not To Affect Redeployment

JN0111121295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has emphasized the need to faithfully and meticulously implement what was agreed upon in Washington.

In reply to questions by the press on the opening of fire on an Israeli settler in Ramallah this morning, President Yasir 'Arafat said that he does not believe the incident will affect the redepoyment of the occupation forces in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians, Israel Agree on Janin Power Transfer

JN0111200195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinians and Israelis agreed on transferring the remaining 19 civil authorities in Janin at the earliest date possible. The two sides also agreed on forming Palestinian and Israeli committees to oversee the transfer.

The agreement was reached at the conclusion of a meeting held this evening between Janin Mayor Hikmat Zayd and Bassam al-Subayhat, Civil Affairs Ministry director, on the one hand and the Israeli military ruler in Janin on the other.

Peres, 'Arafat To Meet Next Week

TA0111222895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will confer with Yasir 'Arafat next week to discuss ongoing issues between Israel and the Palestinians. This was agreed by the supreme steering committee, which completed its deliberations in Jerusalem this evening.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem was told that the Palestinians accepted Israel's demand and handed over the list of names of the 515 policemen who are scheduled to move from Gaza to Jericho in anticipation of their deployment in Samaria. The list will be checked within a few days, and the policemen will apparently arrive in Jericho only next week.

Israel's Water Commission Gid'on Tzur said that the Palestinians foresee a huge increase in their water consumption, exceeding what was agreed on in the interim arrangement. Tzur noted that it transpires from a forecast presented by the Palestinians at the Amman conference that within two decades, they will consume 800 million cubic meters of water a year, twice the current urban consumption in Israel.

Qatar-Israel Gas Memorandum Signed in Amman

JN0111131495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Qatar and Israel signed a memorandum of understanding in Amman yesterday to supply Israel with natural gas. According to this memorandum, Qatar will transport liquefied crude gas by truck from the northern al-Qubbah field to a factory that will be set up in the Ra's Laffan area, where it will be transformed into gas and then sold to Israel.

A gas plant will most probably be set up in al-'Aqabah or on the Mediterranean coast in order to facilitate the flow of gas to Jordan, in addition to Israel.

Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev said this memorandum signals the beginning of a Middle East gas project.

Qatari investments in this project amount to $4 billion. Investments in the company which will transform liquid back into gas and which will lay the transportation pipelines on the Israeli side are estimated at $300 million.

Further on Gas Memorandum

JN0111175595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Nov 95 , pp 14, 7

[Report by P. V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Israel on Tuesday [31 October] signed a memorandum of understanding with an American company to buy up to three million tonnes of Qatari natural gas, with prospects strong that Jordan would house the main transit terminal that could serve Israel as well as the Kingdom and the Palestinian territories.

As if to seal the indirect alliance, Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin Jasim Al Thani and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres also met and shook hands in front of cameras in one of the rarely public encounters between ministers of the two countries which do not have diplomatic relations.

The memorandum was signed by Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev and the chief executive of the U.S. Enron Corporation at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit, which concluded in Amman on Tuesday after three days of discussions on regional economic development and business opportunities.

The signing of the document followed an announcement on Monday that the government of Qatar and Enron had reached an agreement under which the U.S. firm will process five million tonnes of natural gas a year and 40,000 barrels of condensate a day at a plant to be built in Qatar.

Enron is operating Qatar's giant North Dome Field in partnership with Mobil, the gas project is expected to cost between $4.5 billion and $5 billion.

Qatar, which says direct dealings with Israel has to wait until full peace is achieved in the Middle East, is not directly involved in the memorandum signed on Tuesday, but it is the first time that Israel will be purchasing gas from a Gulf country.

According to Jordanian and Israeli officials, there is a tacit agreement that a major gas terminal will be built at Jordan's al- 'Aqabah port, which will take in liquefied natural gas (LNG) ferried aboard tankers from the Enron plant at Ras Laffan in Qatar. From al-'Aqabah, the gas will be transported overland to Israel, which, according to Mr. Segev, will build a $300 million plant to convert LNG to consumable gas. Delivery is expected to being in 2010.

The al-'Aqabah terminal would also help met the demand for gas in Jordan as well as the Palestinian territories. The officials emphasised that the al-'Aqabah project proposal was not final as such since Enron had kept the option open to build the terminal at an Israeli port, but it looked like al-'Aqabah would be the final choice.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres appeared to throw his weight behind the al-'Aqabah proposal when he told reporters Tuesday morning that "there are suggestions that the main station will be on the Jordanian side."

"If Jordan wants to supply gas to Israel, why not?" he said.

The cost of the al-'Aqabah terminal under consideration and the potential returns from it for Jordan were not immediately known.

Qatar is the first Gulf Arab country to enter a major commercial project that directly or indirectly involves Israel after indicating strongly in the last few months that Doha was interested in having relations with the Jewish state.

The Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation council, of which Qatar is a member along with the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman, dropped the indirect trade boycott of Israel early this year. Oman has agreed to set up direct trade relations with Israel.

Shortly after the Israel-Enron memorandum was signed on Tuesday, Shaykh Hamad, the Qatari minister, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin Hamad Al 'Attiyah, Qatar's minister of energy and industry, and Mr. Peres posed for photographers and shook hands following a closed-door meeting.

It was not immediately known what was discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Segev, the Israeli energy minister.

Mr. Peres described the event as the beginning of "the political process" with Qatar and said it had made "some small steps forward."

"I do believe we are now beginning to proceed into a new relationship... I'm rather optimistic about it."

Mr. Segev told Israel Radio that he expected Qatar to establish some form of official relations with Israel soon.

"I'm happy to say that the economic process has bypassed the political process, and I'm sure that this is a genuine assurance that the political process will come very quickly in the wake of the economic process, and will be very soundly based and deep-rooted," he told Israel Radio, monitored by the Associated press.

Reuters quoted Shaykh Hamad in an earlier interview that there was a "diversity" of views" [quotation marks as published] among the GCC members over moves towards political and economic normalisation with Israel.

Shaykh Hamad said his country would lift the primary boycott of Israel once "there is comprehensive Middle East peace."

The Qatari minister also told Reuters that there was "no misunderstanding" with Egypt.

"Anyone can say what he wants," Shaykh Hamad was quoted as saying. "We did not precede anyone in normalisation, and during the (Arab-Israeli) wars, our position was clear. And now in peace, we hope our brethren will not deny us the participation."

Algeria

FIS' Ada: Zeroual Talks With Clinton Inappropriate

MM0111160795 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Oct-4 Nov 95 p 43

[Report by Lurayzah Sawaqi: "Abdelkarim Ould Ada: Zeroual Deserves No Meetings With Clinton or Chirac"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Abdelkarim Ould Ada, representative of the [Algerian] Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Belgium, has said: The elections are a sham, will worsen the situation in Algeria, and will not be the solution.

On the FIS' responsibility for murdering intellectuals and displacing families, Ould Ada said: Our position is clear as regards the excesses aimed against innocent women and children or even people belonging to the various sectors of Algerian society. We are against these excesses.

On President Zeroual's position on the Rome conference and his meetings with Presidents Chirac and Clinton, Ould Ada said: I believe that anyone who rejects dialogue and a peaceful negotiated solution in Algeria does not deserve to be awarded a meeting with those claming to be defending democracy. We are for democracy as a political practice only, not as a philosophical basis.

On the fate of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, Ould Ada said: There has been no news about them, and no one is allowed to visit them.

Voting Time in Elections Cut; Rallies Banned

LD0211101195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Paris, a statement issued by the Algerian Embassy said that the period for Algerians residing in France to vote in the presidential election has been reduced from six to three days in compliance with a request by the French authorities. The attitude of the Algerian Embassy to this decision is outlined in this report by Noureddine Bouziene, our correspondent in Paris:

[Bouziene] The Algerian Embassy in Paris has expressed its profound regret over these restrictions, which have been imposed by the Paris authorities using public security as a pretext. The embassy announced that the voting will take place on 11 and 12 November from 0800 till 2000, and on 16 November from 0900 till 1900. [passage omitted]

In another development, France announced today that it has banned all rallies taking place on its soil within the framework of the election campaign. [passage omitted]

Election Candidates Given Additional Airtime

LD0111225895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the occasion of the 1 November revolution, and according to what was agreed upon at the last meeting of the independent commission in charge of monitoring the elections, to draw lots allocating airtime for the four candidates, an additional time of five minutes was given to each candidate on today's TV bulletin, on this great occasion, the glorious revolution. The drawing resulted in the following arrangement: Liamine Zeroual, Noureddine Boukrouh, Said Sadi, Mahfoud Nahnah. Let us start with Liamine Zeroual addressing a speech on the occasion of the 1 November revolution:

[Begin Zeroual recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters. With great pride, the Algerian people are marking the 41st anniversary of the outbreak of the glorious November revolution. [passage omitted]

Let us all be proud of the Algerian people, the makers of this glorious revolution, and who are known for their good qualities which are represented, especially in their great commitment to pure religion, in their nobility throughout history, their continuous and heroic struggle for liberty and dignity, for their huge sacrifices and mobilization every time the homeland is in danger, and for their great adherence to national unity, irrespective of the attempts to divide which are threatening them, whether from inside or from abroad. [passage omitted]

Among the values of the revolution, I would like to mention our glorious history, the components of our national character, our adherence to republican democracy, social justice, our rejection of all forms of hegemony, exclusion, and marginalization. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, all of you know that our people are preparing to make their sovereign decision during the next few days to create their future and that of the coming generations with freedom and transparency. On this occasion, brothers an sisters, I call on you to rally around the values and principles of the glorious November revolution. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Boukrouh recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Algerian men and women are today celebrating one of the dearest dates in their modern history, 1 November 1954. [passage omitted]

Therefore, our responsibility today is to give a new dimension to history in order to ensure, under the current conditions, independence for the Algerian individual and to restore dignity for the Algerian citizen abroad. We have to recreate the national accord and unity which made 1 November possible, and without which the people could not have united and succeeded in the revolution. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Sadi recording] Brothers and sisters, peace be upon you. Today we mark the revolution of 1954. Before 1954 Algeria was in a great political impasse. [passage omitted]

Today, and as in 1954, we have two dangers. Instead of colonialism we have fundamentalism, and instead of the local leaders appointed by the French [al-quyyad] there is a political group which cooperates with the fundamentalists inside the country. As in 1954, some people say that it is impossible to have a peaceful political solution within the framework of democracy. We say to them: The martyrs who are falling every day are evidence that Algeria should be free and democratic. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Nahnah recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Noble people, God's mercy and blessings upon you. We celebrate today, 1 November, which created the glory of Algeria, the Algerian state, the Algerian present, and the hope for Algeria's future. First and foremost, thanks to God and to the words: God is great. [passage omitted]

Today the Algerian people want to see a state which protects them, which wards off enemies, which safeguards security, stability, and progress. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Renewal Party's Boukrouh on Islam, Elections

MM0111164895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Oct 95 p 6

[Report on interview with Nourreddine Boukrouh, presidential candidate and leader of the Algerian Renewal Party, by Amir Taheri in Algiers; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Clever change." That is Nourreddine Boukrouh's motto in the elections. Boukrouh is 45 years old, the youngest of the four presidential candidates. He is a special product of Algerian society. He would feel at home in any intellectuals' cafe in Paris. He has perfect knowledge of the French language and its intellectual horizons to a point that pleases the French, who like to play with abstract ideologies.

He talks about Plato, Nietzsche, Schlesinger, Marx, Toynbee, Marquis, and Mao Zedong easily, like a sixties student rebel. But Boukrouh can switch to another tone that would be admired by an Iranian mullah or a shaykh of al-Azhar. He feels at home with such Islamic thinkers and philosophers as al-Razi, al-Farabi, Muhammad 'Abduh, and Malik Bin-Nabi, always his favorite figure.

Boukrouh also has another dimension which is that he can, as he puts it, put another "program" in his mind's computer to make him speak Arabic with a different Arab accent mixed with Berber and French expressions and linguistic twists that would appeal to the average man in the Casbah.

Boukrouh describes himself as a Muslim renewalist and bases his ideas on his al-Mu'tazilah predecessors who kept the spirit of philosophical contemplation and sociopolitical renewal alive in Islam.

He says that "had al-Mu'tazilah won the ideological battle the renaissance era would have come from the house of Islam but al- Ghazali and al-Ash'ari triumphed and our civilization deteriorated."

He especially talks with much bitterness about the Algerian situation, particularly the Boumediene government's decision to "import the darkest type of backwardness" from Egypt. He says: "It was the one-party dictatorship. He brought us the Islam of Shaykh Kishk and other ignorant people. The saddest thing about all that is that we had in our country a great Islamic thinker, namely Malik Bin-Nabi."

Boukrouh rejects the labels "Islamic moderate" and "Islamic modernizer." He says "I am none of that. I am an Algerian Muslim living in the 20th century. That is all."

He says that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is "more a social phenomenon than a political movement." He describes Hasan al- Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front in Sudan, and Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian al-Nahdah Movement, as "adventurers coveting power."

With obvious displeasure he says that "what they advocate is not Islam but Rasputinism with a pseudo-Islamic cover. They have led their movements and, in al-Turabi's case, country to catastrophe and they should be ashamed of that."

Boukrouh rejects the Iranian mullahs, saying that "their knowledge of Islam is dead knowledge which they dig up from old books. These mullahs have been marginalized by history."

Boukrouh's name came to prominence when his Algerian Renewal Party won about 10 percent of the votes in the 1989 municipal elections. Two years later his party's position declined in the parliamentary elections which gave the FIS what appeared to be a crushing victory.

He now says that holding the legislative elections was wrong under the one-party state's calculations. Boukrouh was the first to announce his candidacy for next month's presidential elections.

He has so far distinguished himself as the most active and energetic candidate. He has recruited his wife and five children in his campaign, firmly believing that he will deny the ruling President Liamine Zeroual the chance of victory in the first round.

Boukrouh's enemies say that he is driven by obvious ambition and they claim that he was dismissed from governmental administrative service because of bad financial practices, and they also say that he joined the opposition parties at their first conference in Rome last year in order to be the government's "Trojan horse" to wreck any agreement. His reward was the alleged help he got from the authorities in securing 75,000 signatures to qualify as presidential candidate.

Boukrouh says that he will not answer charges made haphazardly by people with "concealed faces."

With a smile, he stresses: "I know that I have many enemies but I only respect those who speak openly and debate in public."

He clearly hopes to remain an influential political figure in Algeria and even to be a part of a government of national unity headed by (Algerian President) Zeroual regardless of the election results. Boukrouh's practical life is really diverse. He has worked as a senior administrative official, as a roving press correspondent (he covered the Iranian revolution events, for example), and then as a successful businessman.

We held a lengthy interview with Boukrouh at his party's headquarters in the heart of the Algerian capital and found him to be full of zeal and vitality.

The following is part of that interview.

[Taheri] Some people claim that you considered withdrawing from the presidential race after Liamine Zeroual announced his candidacy.

[Boukrouh] That is true. Since the announcement that there would be presidential elections we have insisted that all those organizing these elections should not participate in them. In our view, that is a moral condition. Zeroual is a citizen like all others but morally he is not qualified to join the presidential race because of his role as head of state. When he decided to join the election battle we seriously considered withdrawing from the election race. We got our party's leadership and cadres together and thoroughly discussed that matter. After 30 hours of deliberations we decided that the best way to save the elections would be not to withdraw from the elections but to participate in them with greater determination in defense of the need for change and the need for political renewal.

[Taheri] What are the things you wish to change?

[Boukrouh] As its name indicates, our party's aim is the renewal of Algeria. We are the new generation, sons of independent Algeria. We grew up in the shadow of a one-party system and we suffered to our bones from the evils of the one-party state and the command economy. We need freedom, especially freedom of expression. It is time Algeria became a modern state with institutions resulting from public ballot. The generation which freed the country from colonialism accomplished its mission and should hand the leadership over to a new generation.

[Taheri] So you want a change of generations. What else do you want to change?

[Boukrouh] Well, we cannot deny that there is a conflict of generations but there is a need for a radical change in the country's political life: the way political power is organized, in addition to changing our social and economic lives. Claims of revolutionary salvation, demagoguery, and fanaticism will have nothing to offer us after today. They have all failed. Algeria should opt for a market economy with all its aspects and dimensions. There is market necessity in politics also. There must also be supply and demand. The supply should be varied and should emanate from numerous political trends to give the public the chance of a wide choice. Algeria needs to rally around new ideas and interests, both moral and economic. Furthermore, our diplomacy should abandon the path of illusions and ambiguous principles and return to the path of practical and tangible defense of the country's national interests. The change I propose touches on all aspects of life and all aspects of economic administration, society, and diplomacy.

[Taheri] Are the other candidates not saying the same things?

[Boukrouh] No, the other parties represent movements which split and divide Algerian society instead of uniting it for change. Generally speaking, we have an Islamic trend which clings to the idea of the so-called "Islamic state," a media slogan which has nothing to do with the tangible reality in Algeria nor with the current problems here. Raising the Islamic state idea is a demagogue's way of deceiving the masses. The FIS and its appendages represent that trend, in addition to (Shaykh Mahfoud) Nahnah and his group HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], al-Nahdah, and other groups. Against that stands a movement of so-called "democracy and republic" which also insists on abstract ideas and wants to monopolize power and to steer Algeria along a road alien to its traditions, values, and Islamic feelings. I am referring to the secular movement. We want to proceed in a way that transcends the conflict between an idealistic Islamic trend and a secular movement advocating values and policies alien to our people. I stand at a crossroads between these two movements. We are Muslims but we are also modernists, renewalists, and democrats.

[Taheri] Whom do you consider to be your main rival in the elections?

[Boukrouh] These are presidential elections. I am concerned not with individuals but with what they represent. I am joining the campaign in order to focus the spotlight on the contradictions within the classic exercise of power: the same interests, the same trend, the same cliques. I actually want to eliminate the remnants of the one-party state. I stand against those who have destroyed our country's economy and brought about the collapse of our society through crisis and violence, but I also stand against the Islamic trends which do not offer reform but just want to replace an existing state with one that exists only in their imagination. I am also against the secular advocates who want to cross out 14 centuries of Algerian links with Islam and Islamic life. Instead of that, I offer a program for coexistence between our Islamic heritage, values, and beliefs, and a market economy and a democratic pluralistic system. We should not separate one from the other.

[Taheri] You seem to consider Islam to be just a culture and a civilization. Would you, for instance, be in favor of the Algerian parliament promulgating laws about women, inheritance, adoption, and other matters not in line with the Islamic Shari'ah?

[Boukrouh] Islam is a religion and a culture. Let us be clear on this matter. I do not in any way seek to introduce change there. The president or parliament has no right to change Islamic principles. There were such attempts in Turkey and Iran, and you know the results there.

I have visited Iran and I do not believe that it is a model to be emulated. I consider the Holy Koran to be a holy steering guide for all mankind, but it leaves the door open for each society to choose the path it wishes to follow.... My view is that Algeria should be a democratic, pluralist, and Islamic republic. I do not believe that the current crisis is a result of a conflict between the Constitution and the Koran. That is a false claim and an empty theory.

[Taheri] I am trying to identify your Islamic views. What do you think of banks, insurance companies, taxes, etc., and do you consider Algeria to be a nation standing on its own as an entity?

[Boukrouh] Listen, if we are going to use that language and that approach, we will achieve no results. Let us go back to our reality, our situation here in this country. There is a despotic authority which has failed at home and abroad. Algerian society is in need of a new leadership that is committed to democratic rights under our Constitution. We want to be like other countries which have succeeded in developing their economies and politics. We need a modern, strong, and solid state based on the rules and regulations prevailing in modern states.

We will be exactly like modern societies in the West, such as France. All we refuse to do is have an article in the Constitution stipulating that Algeria is a secular state. Islam is and should remain the religion of our state. Apart from that we favor the most modern banking and taxation system and other factors necessary for our economy. The current taxation system in Algeria is stricter than the rules of Islam.

[Taheri] What about the imposition of other binding rules such as rules pertaining to women's clothes and attire and physical punishment, for example?

[Boukrouh] None of that. The crisis in Algeria is not about these things.... In 1988 young people took to the streets in anger, blowing up, burning, and destroying everything they could reach. The reason was their sense of frustration. They wanted to express their rejection of the existing authorities. There was no Islamic movement or anything like that behind it. Parties emerged, each representing a certain ideology. Our party said no to all the ideological illusions and stressed that our starting point is the reality of Algerian society as it developed and crystallized over the centuries. We cannot say that Algeria is a blank page on which any of us can draw whatever ideological maps he likes. We do not have a Shari'ah problem.

[Taheri] Assuming you win the elections, would you then hold a dialogue with the FIS?

[Boukrouh] The FIS does not exist as a party. Its leaders are now in prison or in exile, but it is an existing movement which cannot be ignored. It was one thing in 1991 and now it is perhaps something else or it will be something else tomorrow. Let us first see what picture emerges after the elections. The elected president will be an institution, the only legitimate authority in the country. We are still without a parliament and there are no elected municipal councils. That is why he should form a government that should be open politically and not the "president's government." He should then concentrate on organizing parliamentary elections to establish a legislative authority.

[Taheri] When?

[Boukrouh] As soon as possible. The sooner the better but the dates and methods should be determined through negotiations with all the political parties, all forces which respect the Constitution and accept constitutional legitimacy. These forces should initiate a dialogue with the new president with a view to reorganizing the nation's political life. The opposition should come down from the mountain tops, leave the streets, and come to parliament to fight for its ideas and share of power.

[Taheri] Would the dialogue include the "National Covenant" parties, some of which are boycotting the elections?

[Boukrouh] Certainly. We are against any exclusion. The parties mentioned represent important forces in our society and should play their part in ending the crisis and building the nation's future.

[Taheri] What would you do if you did not succeed in the elections?

[Boukrouh] Well, we would continue to operate as a legitimate, sincere, and effective opposition force offering an alternative to whoever wins. At any rate, we would be facing a transitional period in which the government's central task would be the continued building of legitimacy. The government would discharge the daily affairs of the country and in parallel to that prepare for legislative elections. It should be a government of political and economic reform, and it should restore security, using the momentum generated by the elections. We believe that violence will decline considerably once a new president is elected. People will view the new president not as a cause for violence but as a sign of hope and as the solution to the problem and a new beginning involving everyone's participation in the nation's new political life.

[Taheri] Would you participate in a coalition government?

[Boukrouh] I would not request that. Everything would depend on the identity and program of the winning candidate. If he is close to our program then we could discuss the matter. I cannot decide that now. My attention will be focused on staying in the election campaign in the second round and on winning. My computer program is one of preparation for the second round.

[Taheri] Will there be a second round in the elections?

[Boukrouh] The elections are designed to be in two stages. There is a strong probability that no candidate will secure an outright victory. I know numbers and arithmetic and I am realistic and believe nobody stands a chance of winning in the first round. That is why I work steadily to ensure that I remain in the second round. There will be a second round.

[Taheri] Between you and whom?

[Boukrouh] God knows.

[Taheri] Where do you expect your support and aid to come from? Do you have a strong geographical base?

[Boukrouh] Not at all. We fight the geographical approach and those who boast about their geographical base. That and fanaticism will not solve our problems. Instead, we offer a practical and pragmatic spirit. I address all Algerians. Those who reject these elections are committing a serious mistake. They are an important step towards full democracy in Algeria, which will be the first real modern state in the Arab and Islamic worlds. Our people are a good judge and I am confident that they will make the best choice.

[Taheri] But do you have enough supporters to cover 40,000 polling centers to ensure that there is no cheating? Do you believe that these elections will be clean and honest?

[Boukrouh] We will cover all polling centers and I must assume that the elections will be clean and honest, otherwise we would not participate in them. People who know me know that I am taking part (in the elections) to make sure that they are clean and honest.

[Taheri] Will you invite observers?

[Boukrouh] The government has taken care of that. I cannot invite my own special observers. You know the situation in the country. How would I provide security for the observers if I invited them on a personal basis? There is no reason to believe that the scores of international observers who will come would side with one candidate or another. Anyway, Algeria needs doubt-free elections with no lurking suspicions about their results. The transitional period toward full legitimacy is unimaginable without honest elections to begin with. We should get a president whose legitimacy would be accepted by all, a president who would be able to organize legislative and municipal elections within two years. The new president should win the people's trust and restore confidence in the state. That cannot be achieved by filling the ballot boxes with voting slips that would take the success rate of the elected president to 99.99 percent as is the case in many Third World countries.

[Taheri] Will there be television debates between the presidential candidates?

[Boukrouh] I have called for such debates but have received no reply. I would prefer a debate among all four candidates. If Zeroual does not come that would hurt him. I would corner him, get him with his back to the wall, and we would point to his empty seat [in the debate] and ask why, is he afraid of something or has he something to hide?

[Taheri] Zeroual is acting like all election candidates. He is trying to portray himself as being above conflicts and as a sound statesman at home and abroad. So why should he agree to a television debate?

[Boukrouh] Because we must exploit this unique opportunity to raise and discuss the real issues of the nation. We must win the full confidence of the people and make them the final judge of our programs. These elections, more than any event in the nation's recent history, could transform Algeria. I try to focus people's sights and attention on the real issues such as the frustration of the young and the need for social justice and political freedom, drawing attention also to the dangers of ideological illusions.

Egypt

Musa Briefs Mubarak on Summit, U.S. Embassy Move

*NC0111141195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1118 GMT 1 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was received by President Mubarak today. Musa said afterward that he briefed President Mubarak on the outcome of the Amman economic summit, the contacts held there, and the activity of the [Egyptian] Government and private sector delegation during the conference sessions.

He added that he will meet with the Egyptian delegation members at the Foreign Ministry today to assess the situation and begin preparations for the Cairo economic summit due to be held at the end of next year.

Describing the Amman conference as successful, he said the brothers in Jordan made very good efforts in hosting and running the conference. Therefore, he added, I congratulate them on the success of the conference in form and content.

He added that during the conference there was emphasis on the Egyptian stand toward the peace process, political settlements, reassurance of the security situation in the region, contacts regarding disarmament and the establishment of an area free of weapons of mass destruction, and ensuring that regional economic cooperation is progressing simultaneously. He noted that none of these elements can be ignored at the expense of the others.

He said this is Egypt's firm stand which I expressed at the Amman summit, adding that it had great impact on the region and on the countries concerned with the peace process.

Musa expressed his hope that progress would be made in the coming months on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He also hoped for a sincere and sound implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accords, especially in light of the criticism and fears expressed by President Yasir 'Arafat, which we are following up with him with sincere interest.

Musa was asked whether practical measures were adopted during the conference to implement the proposed Egyptian projects. He said measures were not initiated at the conference, but all Egyptian projects were put forward in detail. Agreements were concluded during the conference between representatives of the Egyptian private sector and their counterparts in other countries. He remarked that the private sector achieved very good results in this respect.

As regards the government, he said, there were projects proposed involving data, petroleum, electricity, and other major industries.

Asked whether the conference discussed the next Arab move regarding the U.S. Congress decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem, the foreign minister confirmed that the issue was raised at the opening session. This is a very important issue and we all reject this move, Musa said. He added, however, that the Amman meeting was not the right place to handle this political issue, as it was an economic conference.

Mentioning the action Egypt will take on the Congress decision after Amman meeting, 'Amr Musa pointed out that the next Egyptian move will be made in the standard way. The decision was made by the Congress, not by the U.S. Government, and President Clinton's position on it is well known; he does not want to sign or implement this decision, Musa remarked.

Musa explained: If we refer to the text of the decision, we will find that its implementation is not required before 1999 unless the U.S. Administration sees a need for it. If it does not, the implementation will be deferred.

He added that although it is wrong, uncalled for, and in spite of the harm it inflicted on the general credibility of the future of the Palestinians and Jerusalem, the decision concerns us because of the risk it poses to Jerusalem. We maintain our position that Jerusalem's status is a subject that requires negotiation; hence, he added, we cannot legitimize any changes. We will not recognize or accept such changes or condone any other legitimacy they try to give to Jerusalem, he noted.

'Amr Musa remarked that Israel can claim whatever it wants, which is normal. But turning that claim into a reality is something else. There must be negotiations concerning Jerusalem; I repeat, there must be negotiations to agree on the final status of Jerusalem. This is what President Mubarak emphasized two days ago, Musa said.

The foreign minister affirmed that it is normal for Israel to say this, because it is only "claiming." But to support Israel in that claim without consideration and merely for electoral reasons, this is what we reject, he said.

Touching on the absence of Syria and Lebanon at the Amman meeting, Musa remarked that their absence had been expected. Of course, cooperation will not be complete unless all the states are present, he said; adding that there are other Arab states that did not participate in the summit. He explained also that some states participated at lower levels, adding that attendance was not complete.

On the upcoming Group of 15 meetings in Argentina and on Egypt's plans, Musa said that President Mubarak delegated him to lead the Egyptian delegation to the meetings. He pointed out that Egypt will submit some projects in addition to the ones it submitted a few years ago, which were approved. Some other projects are still under discussion, he said.

Musa pointed out that all the presented projects fall in the context of south-south cooperation and that it is the first time these projects will be activated. He added that south-south cooperation has been a demand of the Third World and the Nonaligned Movement for more than 25 years, but that the matter was not taken seriously or strongly enough.

Musa explained that markets are not exclusive to the advanced world in the north, noting that the markets of the developing world are important as well.

The foreign minister added that the Group of 15 focuses on economic topics in its discussions, noting that all the Group members are also members of GATT. Hence, the developing countries' position on GATT is unified, he said.

'Amr Musa stressed that the Group of 15 discussions are important for the general economic policy of the developing world. We do not discuss details; the foreign ministers meetings do that, he said. They are contemplating a meeting of the economy ministers or the ministers concerned within the group once cooperation is intensified in a certain area, Musa pointed out.

Regarding the Barcelona meetings slated for the end of November, the meetings that include the foreign ministers of the European Union and the Mediterranean forum, the foreign minister said that these meetings will seek consolidated cooperation among Mediterranean states. He affirmed that the Mediterranean policy has become basic to the Egyptian foreign policy and that the European Union is interested in direct cooperation with Mediterranean states.

As for the meeting in Ohio on Bosnia, slated for today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa pointed out that it is very important. He remarked that the Bosnian problem has entered a new stage that might culminate in an agreement. However, he said, this agreement should take into consideration a number of basic elements, such as Bosnia's territorial sovereignty; the fairness of any deals to restructure Bosnian society with its Serbs, Croats, and Muslims; relations between Serbs and other ethnic groups in Bosnia; the necessary guarantees to avert the country's disintegration; the force that will implement this agreement and maintain security and the cease-fire; and finally, the reconstruction of Bosnia.

Musa Views Regional Conflict, Inter-Arab Ties

On Cooperation With Israel

TA3010122095 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 30 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Dan Avidan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told DAVAR RISHON yesterday that the Egyptian Government was not opposed to regional cooperation between the Arab countries and Israel while negotiations for achieving a comprehensive peace in the region continued. Musa was replying to a question about whether or not his speech at the Amman conference yesterday indicated that Egypt was still presenting tough conditions for promoting normalization with Israel, such as the latter's nuclear disarmament.

Musa admitted that his speech included harsh references to Jordan and Israel but asserted that discussions on expanding peace and establishing regional cooperation were called for in conjunction with efforts to neutralize Israel's nuclear capability. Replying to a question as to whether Egypt was prepared actually to implement regional cooperation with Israel or just pay the idea lip service, Musa said that Egypt's presence at the Amman conference proved its readiness to participate in regional projects.

Musa met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday. He reiterated the issue of the Egyptian POW's murdered in the 1956 and 1967 wars. It was agreed that both countries would maintain a dialogue at the level of officials on demilitarizing the Middle East of nonconventional weapons. Agreement was also reached on holding meetings between Jordanian, Egyptian, Palestinian, and Israeli officials in order to promote joint tourism projects.

On Nation's Role in Region

MM0111134995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 3

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Ibrahim Hasan in Amman; date not given: "Inter-Arab Relations Are Fragile; Israel and Its Role Not To Be Feared"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa confirmed that Cairo will host the next economic conference and again downplayed the positions he adopted at the opening of the Amman Middle East and North Africa economic conference. He reiterated that there is no conflict between Jordanian and Egyptian interests, and that there is no fear over Egypt's regional role. He wondered who could cause Egypt to worry about its regional role and how. He pointed out in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that important as relations with Israel are, they do not define the regional role, because the future of the Middle East region will be decided regardless of Israel. He explained that this future will be decided with Israel either as an active player or neutralized.

Musa said that there is a narrow view concerning regional roles, stressing that there is no dispute over roles between Egypt and any of the states in the region.

With regard to statements made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres concerning Jerusalem, Musa explained that Egypt's position is clear, namely that Jerusalem must remain open for dialogue, that a specific solution must not be imposed on either side, and that Peres is entitled to make proposals, either for electoral or informational purposes. On the subject of economic peace between Egypt and Israel, Musa stressed that the government cannot force businessmen and the private sector to go and invest in Israel, and that the obstacles are not of Egypt's making, but that there are also Israeli obstacles, both political and economic.

Musa explained that the speed of normalization between some Arab states and Israel does not worry Egypt, which was the first to conclude a peace treaty with Israel, and that having started peace it does not wish to end it, and wants to reach a strategic peace. Political peace in itself means a commitment to peace for the sake of peace. If the Israeli side thinks that the economy is more important, they are entitled to their opinion.

Musa pointed out that the Israeli side must be dealt with as a normal state with which Arab states will forge natural ties, and we will not compete for Israel's friendship or for normalization with it. He stressed that if Israel oversteps its role, this would be a mistake for the Arabs, and the appropriate response would be to raise the level of coordination between the active Arab elements; he noted that the disregard for coordination is worrying, while pointing out that each state is entitled to develop its relations with Israel as it sees fit.

On whether Jordan will take on too big a role for its size, Musa pointed out that this does not worry Egypt and there are no objections to its playing this part, provided it can do it and defend it. Musa implicitly criticized the fragility of inter-Arab relations whereby the slightest misunderstanding between Arab states results in a crisis. He cited as an example the misunderstanding which occurred at the opening of the conference, which was easily contained through both sides' desire to avoid a crisis or anything that would warrant it.

On Egypt's views regarding the regional development bank and how to reconcile the Egyptian view with European and Gulf reservations, Musa said that what the Amman conference will produce is the announcement of the creation of a bank, and that two or three years will be needed to establish it and for work to start; meanwhile there are bound to be some political developments which would eventually lead either to reinforcing or wrecking the idea.

He added that the bank's resources have not been specified yet but there is a growing desire by some states to provide an opportunity to do so. Concerning Egypt's most important gains from the conference, Musa said that the opportunity to meet and discuss proposals is fine. He denied that Israel's proposals were more attractive than those made by Egypt. He pointed out that Egyptian businessmen sought to propose medium-sized projects which can be directly monitored, and left the major and regional projects for the next phase.

He said that Egypt has nearly finished building the necessary infrastructure for launching major projects commensurate with its size, population, and resources.

In conclusion, Musa stressed that the Amman conference was a step to reinforce peace and said that he hopes that subsequent conferences will see additional participation from other states.

Muslim Brotherhood Election Participation Viewed

MS0211121595 London THE GUARDIAN in English 2 Nov 95 p 14

[Report by Ian Black: "Brothers Find Egyptian Poll Door Barred"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo — The young guard outside the headquarters of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] cradles a stubby machine pistol as the rush-hour traffic fumes and hoots its maddening way along the Nile.

Though the fundamentalists who once murdered tourists and policemen in the capital are holed up in remote villages, armed guards are still normal fixtures outside Cairo's grimy government building as President Hosni Mubarak tackles the moderate Islamists some say he fears even more.

Inside the NDP offices, preparations are under way for what Mr Mubarak promises will be the freest and fairest election Egypt has seen: on November 29 the national assembly's 444 seats will be for grabs — by any party except the Muslim Brotherhood.

Since September, the reasons for its exclusion have been on display at a desert military court where 80 alleged Brothers face charges of incitement and of belonging to an illegal organisation.

Prosecutors have raised gales of laughter with surveillance films that show only the backs of defendants, and tapes that reveal nothing more subversive than talk about the forthcoming polls. But this is serious business Judge Ahmed Gaballah has already sent 20 militants of the al-jama'ah al-Islamiya to the gallows.

The Brothers are part of Egyptian history: disciplined and secretive, they were crushed under Nasir, while Sadat played them off against the left. In recent years they had been allowed to operate fairly openly and to contest elections under the "cover" of other parties.

But after the abortive attempt on his life in Ethiopia , in June, Mr Mubarak has cracked down hard. Some Egyptians, citing action against second-rank Brotherhood leaders, believe he is indulging in more than pre-election rigging.

The president's example has been Algeria, where a civil war has raged since the military cancelled elections the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

"Mubarak is more afraid of the moderates than the extremists," argues one left-wing writer, Muhammad Sid-Ahmed. "He sees them as the Trojan horse."

The president's supporters reject the suggestion that the smart thing would be to co-opt the Islamists, as has been done successfully in Jordan, Turkey and Kuwait, Egyptian circumstances, they argue, are different.

"Egypt is ruled by families in the countryside. People are conservative and they don't need the Brotherhood to remind them of their religion," says Usama Ghazali Harb, editor of the prestigious AL-SYIASAH AL-DAWLYIAH.

Yet unlike the terrorist groups — beaten by good intelligence and a brutal secret police — the Brotherhood remains popular.

Its strength lies in the urban lower middle classes and the professional syndicates, and it has a reputation for being honest, with a strong if simple message: "Islam is the solution," declare its anonymous leaflets. "At least they are not thieves," says an Alexandria businessman.

Contempt for the government is common, and Mr Mubarak's failure to appoint a vice-president after surviving the Addis Ababa shooting has been interpreted as a lack of confidence. So is the slow pace of privatisation urged on Egypt by the World Bank, the International Monetary tund and the United States, which still forks out more than 1.3 billion pounds a year in aid.

Egypt has enormous economic problems, compounded by staggering population growth of 1 million children every 10 months. Unemployment is 20 per cent and half a million new jobs a year are needed. In such conditions, the fear of political radicalism is obvious.

Yet even as the florid election banners go up, Egyptians seem apathetic and say the outcome is a foregone conclusion. No one imagines that the NDP's vote can fall much below 70 per cent. "Otherwise", says a Cairo journalist, "there will be a perception that its power is slipping."

Some gains are predicted for the largest opposition party, the Wafd, and perhaps for the Nasirists and other leftists ready to play the pan-Arab card. But those Islamist candidates who are not in jail will be elected only as individuals.

Court-Appointed Lawyers Withdraw From MB Trial

NC0111172495 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, Nov 1 (AFP)—Six lawyers appointed by Egypt's high military court to defend 49 members of the Moslem Brotherhood made a surprise announcement at the court on Wednesday [1 November] that they would not take the case, legal sources said.

"We had hoped to defend the accused in this trial. But to prevent anyone from making any accusations against us, we must decline," Majdi 'Abd-al-Sattar, one of the lawyers, told the court.

'Abd-al-Sattar made the announcement just after Ahmad al-Khawajah, the head lawyer in the 60-member defense team chosen by the accused, told the court his team would maintain its boycott of what it considered a "political" trial.

The defense lawyers withdrew from the trial on Monday, but the next day 'Isam al-'Aryan, the chief defendant in the case, had said they had changed their mind and would return.

The military judges ordered the court-appointed lawyers to attend the trial's next session on Saturday. The trial began on September 16.

A lawyer close to the Moslem Brotherhood who asked not to be named told AFP that the court-appointed defense, "all former military justice officials, declined the case to save face temporarily with Ahmad al-Khawajah", who is also head of Egypt's lawyers' union.

The lawyers' union, headed by al-Khawajah but controlled by the Moslem Brotherhood, has condemned the military trial.

The six "could still make the defense case on Saturday and if they do it would probably be the last session before the court makes its judgement," the lawyer said. [passage omitted]

Musa Holds Talks With Canadian Counterpart

NC0211094795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian-Canadian talks opened in Cairo this morning. They were chaired by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Canadian counterpart, Andre Ouellet, who arrived in Cairo last night on a two-day visit to Egypt.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said the talks dealt with the Middle East peace process, ways to overcome obstacles facing the process, and Egypt's role in this regard. Several global issues of common interest, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and developing the United Nations and the performance of the UN peacekeeping forces, were also discussed.

The Canadian foreign minister stressed his country's interest in boosting and enhancing its ties with Egypt, especially in economy and investment, and the possibility of setting up a bilateral economic partnership.

High-Level Libyan Delegation Pays Official Visit

NC0211113495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Libyan revolution leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, on bilateral ties and cooperation. The message was delivered by Staff Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, a member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's envoy, during a meeting with President Mubarak at the Presidential Office this morning.

The Libyan envoy said afterward that the meeting fell within the contacts between Egyptian and Libyan officials, part of the firm relations between Libyan revolution leader, brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, and President Mubarak.

He said he and President Mubarak discussed issues concerning the two countries and the Arab nation. Asked about the Palestinians deported from Libya, he refused to call them deportees, saying they were returnees. He said that to call them deportees is to twist the facts.

He remarked that since it is said there is a Palestinian Authority and a solution, then the Palestinians must return to their land.

Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus answered a question from our Central News Unit on Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's call for an Arab minisummit to discuss Congress' recent decision on Jerusalem. He said the call is a wise decision at this particular time amid Arab division and added that important issues must be handled with a spirit of responsibility.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 2 Novemeber adds: "The Libyan envoy criticized the peace process on the Palestinian track and the status of the Palestinian Authority."]

Pakistani Defense Minister Meets With Mubarak

BK0211055295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Husni Mubarak has called for an early settlement of the Kashmir and Afghanistan issue. He was talking to the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, who called on him in Cairo. The Egyptian president was told that Pakistan is doing its best to seek a solution of Kashmir and bring about peace and stability in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan is following a policy of neutrality in Afghanistan. The defense minister conveyed a message from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to President Mubarak.

President Mubarak conferred the highest Egyptian civil award — the Republic Award Grade One — on Mr. Mirani.

'Mystery' Surrounds Qasim's Disappearance

NC0211072195 Paris AFP in English 0315 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (AFP)—Mystery surrounds the disappearance of an Egyptian fundamentalist leader arrested seven weeks ago in Croatia and according to one militant group secretly extradited to Egypt where he faces execution.

Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, a founding member of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, who lives in political asylum in Denmark, has not been seen since September 12, and despite various theories no-one involved in the affair has been able to locate him.

The armed militant faction, the Jihad, says Croatia shipped Qasim to Egypt where he "is undergoing barbaric tortures in the state security headquarters," a charge denied by Zagreb.

Egyptian authorities have for their part maintained a blanket silence over the affair, even though they have pressed European countries to extradite "terrorist leaders."

Meanwhile the al-Jama'ah charged Qasim was still being held by Zagreb and has promised "waterfalls of blood" if he is not released.

Qasim was one of the al-Jama'ah's founders and was sentenced to death in his absence in 1992 charged with seeking "to overthrow the government by force."

The al-Jama'ah has already claimed one car bomb attack on a police station in the Croatian Adriatic port of Rijeka in October which killed one and injured 21.

The last confirmed sighting of Qasim was on September 12 in Zagreb after he arrived from Amsterdam. Croatia says it expelled Qasim a few days later because he failed to register with police upon entry, but added it did not know where he had gone.

At his family's request, Denmark made diplomatic contacts with Croatia and Israel to try to find the vanished al-Jama'ah leader, but in vain.

The Croatian weekly GLOBUS said Qasim had been sent to Egypt through French intermediaries, without giving further details.

But police sources in Paris said French security had no idea about the militant's fate.

After a June assassination attempt on him in Addis Ababa, which the al-Jama'ah also claimed, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak vowed Egypt would "eradicate terrorists outside the country just as it has those inside."

The Egyptian press has frequently criticized European countries, especially Denmark, for sheltering leaders of Moslem militants waging a violent campaign to topple Mubarak which has left over 900 dead since March 1992.

On September 16, two days after Qasim's arrest but before it was made public, Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said "countries which have allowed entry to terrorists have now understood the danger."

The unnamed countries "are seeking to coordinate their actions with other countries," he said.

The same day, the government daily AL-AHRAM reported that Egypt had "intensified contacts with a number of countries to gain extradition of terrorists" and the contacts have produced "positive results".

Since the wave of extremist violence began in 1992, Cairo has pressed for the extradition of dozens of militants, especially from Yemen, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Denmark.

But Egypt rarely names countries which have handed over fugitives "so as not to embarrass them", a security source said.

Copenhagen has resisted handing over Qasim because, by Egyptian military law, he would not be retried after being condemned to death in 1992 for seeking to "overthrow the government by force".

Qasim would have the right to appeal to Mubarak for clemency, which the Egyptian president has yet to grant to any Moslem militants sentenced to hang, legal sources said.

U.S., Israel Said Pressing for Musa's 'Removal'

MM0111160095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New U.S. Pressures To Have 'Amr Musa Dismissed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that great U.S. and Israeli pressures are being exerted on the Egyptian leadership to remove 'Amr Musa from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry because of his sharp stands opposed to normalization with Israel, in addition to his position on the need to compel the Hebrew state to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Arab diplomatic sources have said that the scenarios proposed for Musa's removal include Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's term, which ends next March, not being extended and his being replaced by 'Amr Musa.

It is rumored among Arab diplomatic circles that Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's representative to the United Nations, is the most outstanding candidate for the foreign minister post if the pressures exerted by the United States to have 'Amr Musa removed succeed.

Police Arrest Owner of Islamist Library

NC0111162795 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] State Security Intelligence Department (SSID) officials arrested Muhammad Mustafa al-Akradi, owner of an Islamist library, in Damietta on 26 October. They stormed his home at dawn, searched it, and took him to SSID headquarters.

The security authorities are hunting down owners of Islamist publication houses.

Libya

Democratic Grouping 'Freezes' Opposition Role

MM3110130195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 95 p 6

[Report by 'Ali al-Ruzz: "Grouping Freezes Its Activities Within the Libyan Coordination Committee"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — In a new development in the Libyan opposition arena, the Libyan Democratic National Grouping [LDNG], which belongs to the Coordination Committee of the Libyan Nationalist and Democratic Forces (led by Major Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni), said that it will work outside the framework of the committee, "which is no longer legitimate" until the second general congress is held.

The Coordination Committee was formed following the Geneva congress held 26-29 November 1992, and comprised the Democratic National Grouping, the Libyan National Organization, the Libyan Democratic National Front, the Libyan Democratic Party, and several independent figures.

Coordination Committee spokesman 'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamisi told AL-HAYAH that he rules out the view that the LDNG statement is an announcement of a split, pointing out that those who have called for the second congress to be held are not aware of the efforts being made to hold it "because their representative in the Coordination Committee is too busy, and because of his inability to attend meetings and his travels between Alexandria, the United States, and his current residence in Abu Dhabi."

The LDNG statement, of which AL-HAYAH received a copy yesterday, said that the 1992 congress led to the formation of the Coordination Committee comprising seven members (four representing the groups and three the independent figures) for a one-year period, with a view to convening the second general congress within a period of one year and three months, and if this is not possible to freeze its activities until the second congress is held.

The statement added that the LDNG has not detected "any serious efforts" to hold the congress, and that when it discussed with some committee members "the need to solve the procedural dilemma" the outcome was that "the committee met without inviting the LDNG representative or consulting with him" regarding the resolutions, moves, or statements.

The statement pointed to the need to comply with the first congress' resolutions "so that our opposition committees do not emulate the actions of (Libyan Leader Colonel) Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who holds congresses which make specific resolutions and concludes binding agreements, but ends up doing what he personally pleases and what suits his personal circumstances, safety, and ambitions."

The statement urged the Coordination Committee "to refrain from using this name in any activity undertaken by any member of the first general congress," and calls on the committee "to consider itself a preparatory committee to prepare for the second general congress and hasten the holding of this meeting" and "to restore the secretariat to the interim preparatory committee which supervised the first congress arrangements, so as to prepare for the second congress." Until then "the LDNG will work according to its program, outside this framework which is no longer legitimate, and at the same time it will work with any preparatory committee entrusted with this task."

In this context al-Ghadamisi said yesterday: "We do not believe that any side which has a sense of national responsibility and is aware of the phase through which the homeland is going would publicly demand that the Coordination Committee freeze its activities, as this would only serve the ruling regime in Libya; we question the purpose of this public demand."

He added: "The LDNG is well aware that there is a genuine effort to prepare for the national congress, whereby the committee would change from a federation of groups to an organization representing and responding to the political currents in the national work arena, and that the committee has decided on a suitable venue for the congress which will be held as soon as possible in Europe."

In conclusion, he said: "I do not believe that this statement represents a split in the Coordination Committee inasmuch as it shows that those calling for the congress are unaware of the efforts made in that respect, and that is because their representative in the Coordination Committee is too busy, and because of his inability to attend the meetings and his travels between Alexandria, the United States, and his current residence in Abu Dhabi."

Morocco

Germany Grants Loans for Infrastructure Projects

*LD0111152495 Rabat MAP in English
1432 GMT 1 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 1st (MAP) — Germany extended Morocco loans and grants worth 149 million deutschmarks destined to finance several water, environment protection, electrification and infrastructure projects in rural milieus.

The related accords, signed Tuesday in Rabat by Moroccan finance and external investment minister, Mohamed Kabbaj, and German ambassador to Morocco, Herwig Bartels, are part of the 1994-95 cooperation program between the two countries.

The signing of these accords coincided with the work visit head of the Bundestag foreign affairs committee Karl Heinz is paying to Morocco.

Ways of boosting Moroccan-German cooperation in various sectors topped talks Karl Heinz had Tuesday with Moroccan secretary of state to foreign affairs and cooperation, Taieb Fassi el Fehri.

Envoy Renews Support for Sahara Settlement Plan

*LD0111200895 Rabat MAP in English
1712 GMT 1 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Nov. 1 (MAP) — Morocco repeatedly expressed its will and wish to see the UN settlement plan on the Sahara unfold to give an international legitimacy to the Moroccan identity of its southern provinces, Moroccan roving ambassador, Ibrahim Hakim, told the press Tuesday [31 October] here.

The roving ambassador, who presented a report on the evolution of the UN settlement plan that must be crowned by the holding of a self-determination referendum in the Sahara recalled that the referendum process was initiated by Morocco during the Nairobi summit of the Organization of African Unity in 1981.

He said Morocco is confident that the Moroccan Sahrawi population will confirm their Moroccan identity during the referenum as they do during various opportunities highlighting the intrinsic links between these populations and the Moroccan throne throughout history.

Many strides were made since the royal initiative announced in Nairobi, and particularly since 1988 when the UN worked out its settlement plan for the Sahara that was accepted by the two parties, he said.

Responding to questions by French and international newsmen who attended the press conference, Hakim dwelt on a number of issues related to the 'Polisario' [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] position concerning the peace plan, the implementation of the plan, the objectives of the information tour he is paying to many Western capitals and the projected visit King Hassan II is to pay to the Moroccan Saharan provinces on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Green March.

Ibrahim Hakim underlined that the referendum in the Sahara will confirm the territory as Moroccan and said that the delaying tactics used by the 'Polisario' to foil the process show a will to keep over 15,000 Moroccan Sahrawis sequestered in the Tindouf camps (southwestern Algeria).

The 'Polisario' separatists do not want peace because they know that if the referendum is held, the Sahrawi populations will confirm their Moroccan identity and their attachment to their sovereign to whom they are bound by the ties of allegiance, Hakim added.

The 'Polisario' seeks to torpedo the UN settlement plan and tries to exclude many Sahrawi tribes from participating in the referendum process, the roving ambassador said.

The UN identification commission should continue examining the lists of all applicants, he said, renewing Morocco's will to facilitate the task of the United Nations through participation in any identification bureau that the UN decides to open.

During his stay in Paris, Ibrahim Hakim conferred with many French officials on the recent evolution of the Sahara question and on the efforts made by Morocco to ensure the holding of the self- determination referendum in the Sahara under the aegis of the UN.

The talks were held particularly with officials from the French foreign affairs department, with members of the French assembly and with poltical parties leaders.

The French officials voiced support to the UN settlement plan and to the efforts exerted by the UN secretary general to implement the plan the soonest possible.

The Moroccan roving ambassador had previously visited the United States, Luxembourg and Belgium. After Paris, Hakim will head for London within the frame of an information campaign to foster awareness of Morocco's backing to the UN settlement plan in the Sahara.

Sudan

Clashes in South Prompt 'New Low' in Uganda Ties

Students Depart for Front

AB0111172095 Paris AFP in French 1632 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 1 Nov (AFP) — The union of students of the University of Khartoum, controlled by the Islamists, today announced the departure of a group of its members for southern Sudan to participate in the "jihad" against guerrillas of the south, accused of being supported by the Ugandan Army.

In a communique, the union claims that its vice president and its secretary for culture are leading "a group" of an unspecified number of students from the university. "We hope that these fighters for the faith will succeed and lift high the flag of victory and return safe and sound to lead Sudan on to a new beginning, according to the communique.

The union expresses its conviction that the "Ugandan provocations" and the recent offensive which, according to Khartoum, was launched by the Ugandan Army to support the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] "shows that it is the beginning of the end to the rebellion." Uganda has denied these accusations.

According to the communique, the rebels of the south have shown their inability to obtain a peaceful settlement of the southern Sudan problem in spite of the government's response to the appeal made by former American President Jimmy Carter for a cease-fire and peace negotiations. The union calls on other students of the University of Khartoum and "all the sons of Sudan" to emulate those who have gone to the war front. At least 13 students of the University of Khartoum have died on the battle fields in the southern part of the country.

The guerrillas of the south took up arms again in 1983 to fight against Northern Arab-Muslim domination of the South who are mostly animists and Christians.

Uganda Denies Involvement

AB0111201395 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 1 Nov 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Relations between Sudan and Uganda have dived to a new low since last week's capture of Parajok in the south of Sudan by the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. The SPLA says it was their biggest operation for years. The Khartoum Government claims that the Ugandan Army was involved in the action. Uganda hotly denies it. Well, Sudan's minister for higher education and scientific research, Ibrahim 'Umar, is in London. Tom Porteous asked him why, if Sudanese rebels have been operating for such a long time, the government should suddenly accuse the Ugandans of being involved.

[Begin recording] ['Umar] Because it is a fact. I mean, we know that the Ugandan Army are now involved in this fight with the SPLA. It is sheer aggression from the Ugandan side. We know the kind of fighters there are, the kind of weapons they are using. It is all Ugandan.

[Porteous] Don't you risk by saying that the Ugandans are involved.... [pauses] don't you risk making a serious international incident out of this?

['Umar] Well, I mean, who risks? The Ugandan side has already taken a step, and they are responsible for any escalation of war here.

[Porteous] Well, Uganda says that they are not involved at all. They have made this very clear, and yesterday on this program, John Garang of the SPLA said that he had no support at all from Uganda. So, who are we to believe?

['Umar] It is one thing to deny a fact. It is another thing to establish it. We know that it is a fact that the Ugandan Army is involved in fighting in Sudan.

[Porteous] What interest would Ugandans have in invading southern Sudan? What is there for them in it?

['Umar] It is part of a plot against Sudan.

[Porteous] A plot involving more people than just Uganda?

['Umar] Yes, I think so because, you know that some neighbors of Sudan had been in the last few months making allegations against Sudan, which are not true, and trying to say that Sudan is a source of trouble in the region. They are the people responsible for this. So, I mean this is part of a plot against Sudan, and the Sudanese Government is well aware of this, and we are sure that it is the Ugandan Army fighting in the south....

[Porteous, interrupting] Do you really think that people in the area are going to believe this because, I mean, Sudan has been... [pauses] Whenever there are some internal problems in Sudan, it's much easier to blame it on outside forces and the plots and conspiracies than to admit that you are suffering a serious defeat in the south.

['Umar] Grounds for belief are facts, and we have facts.

[Porteous] So, what are the facts?

['Umar] That the Ugandan Army are fighting in Sudan.

[Porteous] How many people are involved on the Ugandan side according to you?

['Umar] Well, I don't know the number. I don't know the number, but we are sure that this is the Ugandan Army fighting in Sudan.

[Porteous] How is this going to develop then?

['Umar] Well, we hope that they will be wise to withdraw. That is the first thing.

[Porteous] What about getting some independent people in to look at the situation? Why don't you invite independent observers to come and see really what is going on in the south?

['Umar] We are sure that this is the case, and we know that any independent person cannot go the area of fighting, and we have already agreed with Ugandans, according to Malawian intervention, that there should be people on the border between Sudan and Uganda to monitor any movements of arms and forces, and it is the Ugandan side who refused or tried to delay and play tactics on this. So, it is not that we refused to have independent monitors on the borders, but it was the Ugandans who delayed this.

[Porteous] And you are saying that the SPLA is not involved in this fighting at all?

['Umar] No, I am not saying that. I am not saying that. On the contrary, the SPLA has been fighting all through the years in that area, but we are saying that in this case, it is not only the SPLA.

[Porteous] Are you afraid that you are actually going to suffer a major defeat in southern Sudan because John Garang said on this program yesterday that he was on his way to Juba?

['Umar] On the contrary, Garang knows that Juba is far away from his reach and that our Army is capable of beating him more than once. [end recording]

Tunisia

Opposition Figure Banned From Leaving Country

LD3010223795 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Tunisia, Khemais Chemari, an opposition deputy and member of the leadership of the Movement of Socialist Democrats [MDS] was today banned from leaving the country. While about to travel to Malta to take part in a human rights symposium, his passport was taken from him. The Tunisian judicial authorities say his hand-luggage contained compromising documents. Mr. Chemari has decided to begin an indefinite hunger strike to protest against this measure banning him from travelling.

Ambassador Rejects Political Overtones of Article

MS3010120695 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 30 Oct 95 p 18

[Letter by Mohamed Lessir, ambassador to London: Reality Contradicts Alarmist Picture of Tunisia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir, I have read the article which was published in the FT [Financial Times] under the headline "Tunisia lashes out at the Islamist phantom" (October 17). I was outraged by the allegations and excessive generalisations it contained.

Those who know my country can testify to its hospitable character and to its openness to millions of visitors every year from all over the world. This contradicts the alarmist tone and the narrow and gloomy picture conveyed by the article. Tunisia, which upholds the rule of law and where liberties are constantly promoted, has gone a long way on the path of pluralism and respect for human rights.

It boasts today seven political parties, a parliament where opposition is represented for the first time in the history of the country, nearly 6,000 associations of all trends, and last but not least a women's statute, considered among the most advanced in the would. These are but few achievements, among many others, which have been strangely omitted in the article and which prove the one- sidedness and whimsical nature of the allegations.

I have been equally amazed by the association of Moada's [leader of the Socialist Democrats Movement] arrest with political motives. This information is unfounded, prejudiced and unworthy of a newspaper known for its seriousness. Moada's arrest is merely a common law case that has been dealt with in transparency and in conformity with the legal procedures in force and on the basis of a judicial preliminary investigation for illicit involvement with a foreign country.

I cannot think that your newspaper is among those who consider that politicians should be placed above the law.

Western Sahara

Envoys Leave Laayoune After 'Violation'

LD3110101495 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Words indistinct] Within the context of this policy, the Moroccan invading occupation forces attempted today in Laayoune, the occupied capital of our country, to impose new security measures entailing the search of our country's delegation, which consisted of two observers and a shaykh and was a part of the identification [of voters] process.

Our country's delegation rejected that blatant violation of the immunity it enjoys as a representative of one of the two sides of the conflict accredited by the UN commission. Therefore, our country's delegation decided to return to the liberated territories after the occupation police insisted on the search operation.

This way, as of today, the identification process stops in the occupied city of Laayoune, where, until now, the only office in the occupied territories existed. This shameful behavior by the Moroccan occupation authorities is another blow to the peace process and a new violation of the reputation and credibility of the United Nations [words indistinct] does not constitute (?a surprising) isolated incident.

This way, the identification process stops for an unknown period of time because of the actions of the Moroccan regime in a number of fields, including the military field.

GCC Chief, Kuwaiti 'Source' on Iraq

MM3110122595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Wafai' Diab in London and Hana' Bawhaji in Manama: "Contacts To Crystallize a Unified GCC Position On Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in the Gulf stressed that the GCC states agree on the necessity for Iraq to implement all Security Council resolutions despite their deep sympathy for the Iraqi people's plight caused by the continued blockade, but they hold the [Iraqi] regime responsible for causing the suffering.

The sources said that the six states are now working toward crystallizing a common position in this respect, to be announced at next month's summit in Muscat, and stressed that Iraq must implement all international resolutions in order to alleviate its people's suffering. The sources said that, despite expectations, the summit is moving toward adopting a firm position on Iraq, pointing out that the Sultanate of Oman is not very far from this line, especially since Baghdad repeatedly refused its call to accept Security Council Resolution 986, which allows Iraq to sell some of its oil in return for food and medicines for its people.

This development comes at a time when Kuwait has initiated practical steps with a view to normalizing its relations with some Arab states.

The GCC secretary general confirmed yesterday to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the summit will discuss the position on Iraq, but stressed that this issue is addressed at all Gulf summits. Al-Qasimi's statement came at a time of intensive contacts in the Gulf to clarify the position regarding the call by United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan for Arab reconciliation and for ending the Iraqi people's suffering. Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about his views on rumors of detente in Gulf-Iraqi relations, Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, currently attending the seventh meeting of GCC information ministers in Bahrain, replied: "No comment."

Al-Qasimi said that the summit agenda also includes relations with Iran, the Middle East peace process, and the GCC states' political, economic, and military objectives. He pointed out that there is a move toward implementing the Supreme Council's resolutions calling for consolidating the six states' cooperation on defense. He said that, at their recent meeting in Riyadh, the chiefs of staff reached some important recommendations to be addressed at the meeting of defense ministers next month in Manama.

In this context, an official Kuwaiti source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday evening that Kuwait had initiated practical steps to normalize its relations with some Arab states, namely Jordan and Yemen.

The source said that both countries' recent positions are in tune with the principles and premises defined in the amir's October 1994 speech, as a basis for restoring relations with the Arab states which did not support Kuwait in its ordeal. The source added that the positive aspects in proposals made by officials of both countries encourage practical moves in this direction, but did not mention any new development in the position of the other states such as Sudan and the PLO.

The source expects that the first step in this respect will be Kuwait's participation in next Sunday's [29 October] Amman economic summit, in which it will be represented by Finance Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Hanif. He said that the level of representation is not a problem, because what is more important is to participate.

The Kuwaiti source denied that there is any change in the UAE's position regarding Arab reconciliation, or in the basic Gulf position with regard to the Iraqi file. He said that UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan has called for ending the Iraqi people's suffering out of his desire to spare this people any more tragedies, but that the Iraqi regime, by refusing all resolutions that could help to alleviate its pains, is responsible for this suffering.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud had a telephone conversation the day before yesterday with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, in which they discussed relations between the two countries and other issues of common interest. Shaykh Sa'd also had a similar conversation with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The Iraq issue is also expected to be addressed when Amir of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani visits Muscat the day after tomorrow to meet with Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id, whose country will host the next GCC summit meeting.

Gulf Dailies Berate U.S. on Embassy Transfer

JN2710184795 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Oct. 27 (WAKH)—Qatari daily editorially today continued to criticize both the U.S. Congress decision to transfer their embassy to Jerusalem and the lax Arab reaction to this move.

AL-RAYYAH daily urged the Arabs to stop their ineffective, but clamorous, war of words and take instead some effective action to prevent the implementation of this decision, which deliberately destroys the peace process.

The daily called for a collective action by the peoples, the Arab League, and the OIC (Organization of Islamic Conference) to foil the move, which came only few days after the signing of the Oslo 2 agreement on the expansion of the Palestinian self-rule authority in the West Bank and just few days ahead of the Amman economic summit.

AL-RAYYAH called upon all Palestinian national forces to totally reject this decision and try to reinstate Jerusalem as an integral part of the [words indistinct] occupied in 1967. It also called upon Arab countries to hold an urgent Arab summit to heal the rifts partitioning the Arab rank and weakening them, stressing that Jerusalem would remain a responsibility of all the Arabs and Muslims of the world, because it is the town prophets and [words indistinct].

A UAE [United Arab Emirates] Arabic daily today commented editorially on the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The Dubayy-based "AL-BAYAN" said: "If it is true that U.S. President Bill Clinton will only postpone the U.S. Congress decision of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, then this postponement doesn't mean removing the problem but instead indicates leaving it as a time bomb, ready to explode any minute.

"The draft law has defined May 1999 as the last date for moving the embassy and Clinton's term is ending in 1996, or thirty months before the fixed date. If we assume that Clinton wins the coming presidential election and uses the same method he used in his previous presidential campaign, then it is most probable that he would endorse the Congress decision before the election starts, fulfilling the promise he made in 1992.

"The aim of the postponement is to silence Arab opposition and find a way out for anti-Arab and anti-Islamic groups in the U.S.

"The message that we want to convey to the White House as well as to current and future U.S. officials is that it is impossible for Arab-U.S. relations to continue in their present form, based on provocation and demeaning from one party and patience and ignorance from the other. [passage as received]

"We believe that whatever the depth of these ties is, it cannot stand the repeated stabs from the American side, at least on the public level if not on the official as well.

"Therefore, we hope that President Bill Clinton would in the end be keen to maintain [words indistinct] interests and not surrender to the Zionist temptations to wreck all that remains from the U.S.-Arab relation."

Qatar

U.S. Bill on Embassy Relocation 'Denounced'

JN0111165295 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1430 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 1 Nov (WAKH) — The State of Qatar denounced the U.S. Congress bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It said the bill excessively undermines the efforts to complete the Middle East peace process and contradicts international legitimacy, particularly UN resolutions on the status of holy Jerusalem.

This came during a meeting of the Qatari Cabinet chaired by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar. The cabinet expressed its hope that the U.S. Administration will maintain its impartial position as an active partner in the peace process and undertake strenuous efforts to ward off the crippling of the peace process so that it can reach its aspired goal.

In this regard, the cabinet expressed its regret at the deterioration of the situation in the Arab region, which is plagued by weakness and differences. It emphasized the need for restoring Arab solidarity and unifying ranks to live up to the fateful causes.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. Plan To Move Embassy to Jerusalem Criticized

JN0111204895 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
27 Oct 95 p 5

[Editorial: "What is the advantage of Transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Congress the day before yesterday took its long-cherished step to transfer the U.S. Embassy in the Zionist entity from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Any analysis will show that the step was not a glorious political move because it is going to increase doubts throughout the world about the objectivity of the U.S. Congress as a body that is formulating the policies of the current greatest state in the world. The step will also create obstacles for that country's foreign policy and will arouse anger all over the world.

What is harmful in keeping the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv or any Palestinian village?

The Congress knows well that Jerusalem is a sensitive issue, and is in fact the most important factor in the Middle East issue. Moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is not as simple as moving a U.S. Embassy from one city to another city in any other country. Comparing the advantages and the disadvantages of such a transfer for the United States, it is clear that the Jerusalem issue will create much unnecessary trouble for the United States and will show it as unbelievably biased toward the Jews.

The step recognizes Jerusalem as a Jewish city, encroaching on rights, ignoring facts, causing anger throughout the Islamic world, and giving peace opponents justifications for harming the cause of peace and allowing acts of violence.

All this may happen in the Middle East and to the U.S. policy in the region just because certain people want to receive the support of Zionist television networks during the upcoming elections. These people are wrong and have committed a serious folly because whether they win or not, their country's will and reputation will become hostage to a small group of people, who are biased toward the Jews and who are creating a permanent clamor in Washington.

The decision has angered a billion Muslims. Christians also believe that attempts to Judaize Jerusalem conflict with justice, logic, and equality. No large power can enhance its foreign policy while causing anger among the majority of people.

U.S. President Bill Clinton is trying to keep the policies of his administration separate from the Congress' decision because he knows well the dangers of the decision. He knows the decision will create obstacles and successive frustrations for U.S. policy, not only for his administration, but also for the administrations of his successors, including those who advocated the decision only to gain the chance of winning in the upcoming elections.

Clinton Seen Facing 'Dilemma' Over Jerusalem

MM0111093395 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 26 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Jerusalem, a U.S. Capital!!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the Cold War, the United States adopted a policy of surrounding the Soviet Union with military bases, and also set up protection for some states confronting those that embraced communism both in ideology and in practice. There was for example a military and economic alliance between the United States, South Korea, and South Vietnam against the North; Taiwan became the answer to communist China, and Israel confronted all Arabs of both left and right, and enjoyed greater support, as if it was one of the American states linked constitutionally on that continent.

However, even with the presence of military bases in those countries, the U.S. personality became unacceptable, especially in Asia, where South Korea and Japan witnessed massive demonstrations calling for the removal of U.S. hegemony. Since the two states have reached advanced positions in the economy of the world and its democratic system, and since the fall of the Soviet Union brought fears of sudden invasion or communist deployment, North Korea's attempts at integration with the South into a single state have been hampered by the same U.S. policy, which is aimed at preventing Korea from becoming an Asian superpower independent from it and economically free.

Israel will remain amid the Arabs, and the issue of the Senate's and House of Representatives' vote to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel is nothing new, but its timing is the focus of attention, since its announcement at the end of the UN celebrations and in the presence of the largest international audience at the highest level is meant to make the world take notice of this decision, in addition to the fact that the U.S. President is in a tight spot with regard to the renewal of his presidency for a second term.

So he either follows the same route and accepts what is rejected by the government's political trends in order to keep his options open with regard to securing the Jewish vote in the next elections, or he refuses to do so, so that the peace equation does not turn into a crisis that would harm his foreign policy and his Democratic Party's future. He is perhaps the only one facing the dilemma of this trap laid by some members of the Congress, controlled by a Republican majority who, at root, support Israel.

Also, it may be that the hastening of this decision was intended as an indirect response to the demonstration by a million black Americans, and especially to the ideas of Farrakhan, who insults both Jews and whites, with the aim of showing that the action of Congress has a great deal more influence on U.S. policy than such protests and demonstrations.

The United States understands that in Jerusalem, supposedly shared by the three divine religions, Muslims outnumber Christians and Jews ten to one demographically and geographically, but if power is the official spokesman in such circumstances, the United States is wrong to believe that this measure serves its interests, especially at a time when most Muslims see it as the state to confront ideologically and politically, which in turn will only increase the problems and could result in violence by all the extremists. Only Israel, which has drawn the United States into this dark tunnel, would profit from this storm.

United Arab Emirates

Court Commutes Philippine Maid's Sentence

JN0111132995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Oct (WAKH) — The al-'Ayn Islamic Court in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] today sentenced Philippine maid Sarah Balabagan to one year in prison, 100 lashes, and deportation from the UAE. The court also ordered her to pay 150,000 dirhams in blood money to the family of the victim Almas Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Balushi.

A UAE Justice Ministry source told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that the court agreed to close the case as the victim's heirs waived their legal right to have the defendant punished.

Yemen

Cabinet 'Denounces' U.S. Bill on Embassy Transfer

JN0111204195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session in the economic and trade capital, Aden, this morning under Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani. At the beginning of the session, the cabinet reviewed the directives of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, on the performance of public institutions in light of the letters he sent to the government since its formation and the government's policy statement presented to the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

The cabinet denounced and expressed its dismay at the bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to holy Jerusalem. The cabinet expressed hope that the U.S. Government will do everything possible to reverse this bill, which contradicts resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Ahmar To Visit Kuwait To Restore Relations

MM3110123595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Salam Tahir: "Shaykh al-Ahmar Intends To Visit Kuwait Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aden — Shaykh 'Abdallah Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and chairman of the Supreme Authority of the Yemen Reform Grouping which is the partner of the General People's Congress in the government, said that he intends to visit Kuwait soon with a view to putting an end to the severance of relations between the two countries and restoring them to their former status.

Al-Ahmar, speaking to journalists yesterday in al-Mukalla, capital of Hadhramaut Governorate, said that his desire to visit Kuwait is mutual and shared by both countries.

Al-Ahmar said that relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia are good now that the clouds hanging over them have disappeared, especially following the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries in Holy Mecca last Ramadan. He said that he hopes to improve these relations in the best interests of both countries.

It must be mentioned that news reports last month said that Kuwaiti political and parliamentary circles welcome Shaykh al-Ahmar's visit to Kuwait. A Kuwaiti union delegation headed by the president of the Kuwaiti workers' federation visited Yemen recently, an unprecedented move, the first time an unofficial Kuwaiti delegation has visited Yemen since the 1991 second Gulf War.

Some Yemenis official have relayed Sanaa's desire during the past months to restore relations with Kuwait to their former status, and have praised Kuwait's support of Yemen's economy in the past.

INC, SAIRI Officials Discuss Bomb Blast

NC0111135995 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Report by Lachlan Carmichael]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Nov 1 (AFP) — A bomb ripped through Iraqi opposition offices and homes in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq killing at least 28 people, including women and children, the opposition said Wednesday [1 November].

The opposition suspected President Saddam Husayn was behind Tuesday's bombing which also wounded 70 other people when it destroyed an Iraqi National Congress (INC) building and nearby homes in the mountain town of Salah-al-Din.

Among the dead were Lieutenant Sa'if Rashid Sindi, head of security for the INC, an Iraqi opposition umbrella group.

Rescuers on Wednesday sifted through the rubble for survivors following the blast that also devastated six neighbouring houses, an INC official in London, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, told AFP.

"It was a very powerful bomb," he said by telephone when contacted from Dubai.

Hamad al-Bayyati, London representative for the Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), said the two-storey INC building was in an area held by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Al-Bayyati, whose group is the main Shiite Moslem opposition movement in Iraq, accused "agents of the Iraqi regime of carrying out this attack."

He said "the bomb which exploded was a type of device specially designed to kill the most people possible." Apart from Sindi, three guards deployed around the building had been wounded and hospitalised.

Sindi was said to be "a driving force in the INC effort to overthrow Saddam Husayn and establish a democratic and pluralistic government in Iraq," the INC said in a statement.

The London-based INC has tried to mediate in a bitter power struggle between rival Kurdish groups which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad.

It said Monday that Shiite Moslem rebels had been deployed in northern Iraq to launch joint attacks on Iraqi government forces. An unspecified number of militiamen from the Badrah Brigade arrived south of the city of al-Sulaymaniyah.

The INC has launched an investigation to try to determine who was behind the blast.

"We condemn this monstrous action. We are waiting for the outcome of the investigations but it seems Saddam Husayn had a hand in it," INC vice president Latif Rashid said.

"This is the dictatorship in Baghdad's first present to the people since the referendum," Rashid said, referring to the October 15 vote which returned Saddam to power for another seven-year term.

But he refused to speculate on who else could be behind the attack, saying information was still sketchy.

Northern Iraq has been the scene of violent inter-Kurd clashes, as the PUK led by Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani's KDP have fought over sharing power and vital tax revenues since May 1994.

More than 2,000 people have died in the clashes, according to Kurdish sources. Apart from the INC, the United States and Turkey have also been trying to mediate a peace accord.

In February a massive car bomb killed up to 80 civilians and wounded 200 others when it ripped through a busy shopping area in Zakho in northern Iraq.

And in September two bombs attacks in Irbil, the main town of northern Iraq, left eight people dead and 14 wounded.

Northern Iraq has been controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the January-February 1991 Gulf War.

Allied warplanes patrol an air exclusion zone imposed north of the 36th parallel to protect the Kurds from Saddam's forces, flying missions from a base in Incirlik, southeast Turkey.

The Turkish parliament on Saturday voted for a three-month extension of the allied mandate, rather than for six months as in previous votes.

KDP Sources Vow To Find INC Bombing Culprits

TA0111151195 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1350 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara (AA) — It is possible that the tension between opposing Kurdish groups in north Iraq will dangerously escalate once again following yesterday's bomb attack against the Iraqi National Congress [INC] office in Salah-al-Din, in which at least 25 people were killed.

Speaking to AA, Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] sources noted that it is still too soon to determine who perpetrated the attack, but they recalled that the Patriotic

Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, has been known to have perpetrated similar attacks in the past.

The sources pointed out that although the attack targeted the INC office, the city of Salah-al-Din is under the control of the KDP. They remarked: "There is also an INC office in Irbil, but the attack was carried out in Salah-al-Din, which is under our control. This factor indirectly demonstrates the anti-KDP aspect of the attack."

The KDP sources declared that the attack is aimed at suppressing the regional influence of the INC, which incorporates the KDP as well, and at terrorizing the people. They said: "We will certainly find the culprits, no matter who they are."

The KDP sources also described as a very serious development the reports that units commanded by Shiite leader Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim have begun entering the regions controlled by Talabani.

The same sources added: "Such a development should have been discussed and approved under the auspices of the INC, because all the parties involved in this issue are members of the INC."

Meanwhile, it was reported that Talabani returned from London to Damascus two or three days ago.

Saddam Receives Tunisian Envoy Yahia, Message

JN0111190295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, received a written message from his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the sister Republic of Tunisia. The letter was delivered by Tunisian Foreign minister Habib Ben Yahia.

The guest minister extended the heartfelt congratulations of the Tunisian president, Government, and people to the leader President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the Iraqi people's renewal of their confidence in his wise leadership. He also conveyed President Ben Ali's wishes of welfare and progress to the Iraqi people under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

In a statement to INA today, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia, the special envoy of President Ben Ali to President Saddam Husayn, said: I had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn within the framework of my mission as a special envoy to his excellency from his brother His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

He added: I had the honor of handing him a written message from President Zine El Abidine. The letter is part of customary consultations on the vital and important issues of concern to Tunisia and Iraq and on major concerns in the Arab homeland. The consultations also focus on issues related to the Arab homeland's higher interests and restoring the means of understanding, dialogue, and cooperation within the framework of the Arab family so that we can deal with the various challenges posed by the new world situation.

He added that he relayed to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn the congratulations of his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the fraternal Iraqi people's renewal of their confidence in his leadership.

Yahia Departs

JN0211110095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Habib Ben Yahia, Tunisian foreign minister and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's special envoy to President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad today at the end of a short visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, he said that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was useful, and that they discussed all the good initiatives in the Arab homeland that are aimed at changing the situation and arranging the Arab house in way that will serve the Arab nation's fateful issues. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Party Official Meets Algerian Party Leader

JN28101[illegible]95 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 28, INA—Head of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Foreign Relations Bureau 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi has met with the Secretary General of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria Khalid Bensmail.

The meeting dealt with cooperation aspects between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria as well as means to enhance them in a way that would activate and escalate the national jihad in the face of the imperialist-Zionist forces.

Mr. Bensmail offered his warm congratulations on behalf of all the Algerian people to President Saddam Husayn on winning the presidency referendum. He also confirmed that the full backing of all masses stands for the comprehensive victory of principles and noble norms and values.

Mr. Bensmail arrived in Baghdad on Friday evening in response to an invitation by the Foreign Relations Bureau. He will hold several meetings with state and party officials concerning enhancing relations between the Ba'th Party and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, besides evaluating the brotherhood solidarity between Iraq and Algeria.

UK Company Prevented From Exporting Medicine

JN2710170595 Baghdad INA in English
1500 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—Iraq's Health Ministry said the British Government has prevented one of its medical companies from sending Iraq the medicines used to treat the sick who suffer from angina pectoris as well anesthetization materials used in Caesarean surgical sections.

Minister of Health Umid Midhat Mubarak told INA on Friday that the British Government has and still is preventing "B. Welcome"' Company from exporting the necessary medicines to Iraq.

The British Government had prevented Iraq from importing such anesthetics and some other materials used to treat cancer.

Such measures show the injustice and inhumanity to which the Iraqi sick children, women, and elderly are being exposed due to the lack of medical supplies and diagnostic, laboratory, and preventive services, the minister said.

More than 600 thousand Iraqi sick who suffer from chronic diseases as hypertension, diabetes, and cancer need about 200 million dollars yearly to meet their needs of medicines to keep alive, he explained.

The minister said America and Britain have forced some states to hide the medical and scientific information from the Iraqi physicians and prevent the Iraqi scientific delegations and medical magazines from entering their countries, and deprived them as well of taking part in the world scientific conferences.

Such inhumanitarian practices forced the health institutions in Iraq to provide the Iraqi sick inflicted with chronic diseases with half of their medicine shares, referring that the humanitarian aids rendered to Iraq do not represent but 5 to 8 percent of Iraq's urgent needs of medicines, he stressed.

These inhumanitarian practices reveals as well another page of the embargo and its evil intentions represented by deliberately preventing Iraq and its physicians and scientists from accompanying the medical development going on in the world.

Romanian Foreign Ministry Official Pays Visit

Delivers Letter Addressed to Saddam

JN2910211095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1440 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received a letter addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The letter deals with friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and ways to promote them.

Ramadan was handed the letter today when he received Marcel Dino, minister of state at the Romanian Foreign Ministry.

Ramadan asserted that the two countries maintain close and friendly relations, and that Iraq is eager to promote them for the benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Marcel Dino conveyed the greetings and wishes of the Romanian president to President Saddam Husayn on winning the absolute confidence of the Iraqi people on the public referendum day.

He pointed out that Romania is always seeking to maintain strong relations with Iraq and find new spheres of cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

To Bring Home Pardoned Convicts

JN3010110695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1027 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered that three Romanian prisoners convicted in December 1989 be pardoned and relieved of serving what remains of their prison terms for humanitarian reasons.

His excellency the president's order came in response to an appeal made by Romanian President Ion Iliescu contained in letter to him carried by Romanian Minister of State Marcel Dino when he was received by Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan yesterday.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the three prisoners will travel to Romania along with Dino.

Meets With Finance Minister

JN3010162295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1430 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, minister of finance, today received Marcel Dino, minister of state at the Romanian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the effects of the unjust blockade clamped on the patient and mujahid Iraqi people, their suffering as a result of food and medicine shortages, and the negative effects of the blockade on various activities and services.

The guest minister expressed Romania's desire to promote relations with Iraq in the service of the two friendly peoples' interests. The two sides discussed means of promoting joint cooperation in economic fields.

Confers With al-Sahhaf

JN3010164595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1548 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of foreign affairs, met here today with Marcel Dino, minister of state at the Romanian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the foreign minister reviewed relations of cooperation between Iraq and Romania and means of promoting them in the service of joint interests.

Al-Sahhaf spoke about Iraq's continuous cooperation with the UN Security Council and the efforts it exerts to lift the blockade imposed on it.

Marcel Dino, minister of state at the Romanian Foreign Ministry, expressed his country's interest in promoting ties with Iraq, and its support for the efforts being exerted to expedite lifting the blockade imposed on it. The two sides discussed issues of joint interest.

Attending the meeting were the Foreign Ministry under secretary, head of the Foreign Ministry's third political department, and the Romanian charge d'Affaires in Baghdad.

Ramadan Opens Baghdad International Fair

JN0111213595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the patronage of leader President Saddam Husayn, the activities of the Baghdad International Fair began today under the slogan "The 28th Session of the Baghdad International Fair is a Significant International Economic and Scientific Event in the Service of Construction and Progress Under Leader Saddam Husayn, may God Watch Over Him." Several nations and many Arab and foreign companies are taking part in the fair.

When Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, who deputized for leader President Saddam Husayn on the occasion, arrived at the site of the fair, the Republican anthem was played to mark the start of the fair's activities. The opening ceremony began with Koranic recitations, and also by a reading of the Opening Chapter of the Koran to evoke God's mercy on the souls of our righteous martyrs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered a speech on the occasion. He began by relaying the greetings of the leader president to the Arabs and foreigners taking part in the fair. He wished them good stay in Iraq, and their countries continued progress and success. He added: Iraq is according special attention to the Baghdad International Fair, because it is a significant economic event that could promote our economic and trade ties with various nations. Moreover, this fair can offer Iraqis access to sophisticated and high-tech industrial products and enlighten the world community about the technological achievements made in Iraq. Additionally, the fair can give foreign companies as well as national public and private sector companies the chance to broaden their knowledge about the scientific advancements made in various industrial sectors on the international scene; and this could contribute to the enhancement of joint cooperation.

Ramadan added: Iraq is currently experiencing the aftermath of a devastating and brutal aggression against our homeland; namely, unfair sanctions unprecedented in the history of mankind. These sanctions have undermined the performance of the fair over the past few years. Five years and three months have passed since the imposition of the unfair embargo on Iraq and the freezing of its assets in foreign banks. This embargo was imposed at the behest of the United States, Britain, and their allies under the guise of upholding international legitimacy. It has immensely hurt the Iraqi people, as reflected in the deterioration of the food and health situation in Iraq. This embargo has also adversely affected the country's social and educational situation.

Ramadan went on to say: This arbitrary use of the sanctions to deprive the Iraqi people of their most basic natural rights, particularly their right to have access to medicine, food, and education, is a serious breach of the spirit of the UN Charter regarding the use of sanctions, particularly since the country's human rights situation and development endeavor have been undermined. This has hurt the image of the United Nations as a body that is eager to uphold security, peace, development, and human rights. To tackle the adverse repercussions of the anti-Iraq aggression, including sanctions, which have negatively affected our foreign trade, the international community must fulfill its legal and humanitarian responsibilities by ending the blockade. The UN Security Council must comply with its relevant resolutions in accordance with the UN Charter, and must stay clear of the political objectives of the U.S. Administration.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the current and future stages of the Iraqi economy can chart the course for its development and prosperity if we make an effort to implement extensive and comprehensive development plans once the unfair sanctions are lifted. This would increase the chances and opportunities for expanding economic and technical cooperation and trade exchange with other states. Toward that end, Iraq's foreign trade policy will be invigorated to provide the requirements of implementing new development plans. This is necessary to reinforce our economic and service capabilities. We are eager to render Iraq's economic and trade ties with the fraternal Arab states stronger, broader, and more diverse to promote the strategy of achieving integration among the Arabs in the interest of our pan-Arab causes.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, accompanied by Sudanese Trade Minister Muhammad Tahir, several ministers, and members of the diplomatic missions accredited in Baghdad, toured several pavilions of the fair, which included the exhibits and products of the mujahidin, who seek to produce local alternatives for foreign products in the areas of industry, agriculture, consumer products, services, and medical appliances. This reflects the ability of the creative Iraqi mind to demonstrate technical, scientific, and technological innovation even under the sanctions clamped on mujahid Iraq.

Several art groups affiliated with the Baghdad Educational Department performed during the opening session of the fair, which will continue until 15 November. Their activities included dances and patriotic songs embodying great love for the idolized leader Saddam Husayn as well as our lofty people's steadfastness in the face of the unfair sanctions.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN

1-10 Oct Sorties

JN2310140495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0925 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 23 Oct (INA) — Iraq yesterday addressed a memorandum of protest to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali against U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace for observation, provocation, dropping flares, and breaking the sound barrier.

Iraq's permanent UN representative said U.S. aircraft conducted 812 aggressive sorties, in addition to several reconnaissance flights, between 1-10 October.

11-20 Oct Sorties

JN2710104795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0900 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 27 Oct (INA) — Iraq once again protested to the United Nations the continued U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace.

In two letters yesterday to the Security Council president and the UN secretary general, Iraq's UN representative said between 11 and 20 October, U.S. aircraft mounted 547 sorties for observation and provocation purposes over Iraqi cities in the north and south of the country.

The Iraqi diplomat asked that the letter be distributed as a Security Council document.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to League

JN2310140295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0920 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (INA) — Iraq has informed the Arab League that the U.S., British, and French aircraft continue to violate its airspace taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said the aircraft violated Iraq's airspace between 1-10 October flying 768 aggressive sorties.

In his letter, Iraq's representative said these violations constitute a serious violation of Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Saddam Husayn Presides Over RCC Meeting

JN0211105395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1040 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a Revolution Command Council [RCC] meeting.

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the president's office, attended.

Rabin on Lebanon, Syria, Palestinian Track

TA0111215695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1845 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by anchorman Ehud Ya'ari, Qol Yisra'el party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel, and YEDI'OT AHARONOT political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in the studio on 1 November; from the weekly "Focus" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ya'ari] Unfortunately, we had yet another incident in Lebanon today. Isn't there a way to stop this continuing bloodshed?

[Rabin] However painful this is — and this is certainly painful for our and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers — we have the experience of three years of war in Lebanon. We sustained 650 fatalities in those three years, and we saw that the war, including our marching all the way to Beirut, did not solve the problem. We solved the problem of terror with the Palestinians, and in its wake came a far more serious terror problem with the Lebanese and with radical Islam, which is our main problem.

We have no alternative. We, together with the SLA and the residents of the security zone, must continue to cope with the terror of Hizballah and its supporters. I have no doubt that Iran and Syria are using this as a way to pressure us to accept conditions that are unacceptable to us concerning the negotiations with the Syrians.

[Schiffer] Perhaps there is a solution, Mr. Rabin. In the last few days you, have been pointing to Syria as a center of terror. Perhaps the time has come for the Syrians to understand that there is no gratuitous shooting in Lebanon and for you to deal directly with the focus of terror in Damascus.

[Rabin] I believe that those who thought that the problem could be solved by means of a war in Lebanon — not against the Syrians, but a limited war against the Syrians in Lebanon, which also took a heavy casualty toll — and who apply this to a war with Syria will be committing the most serious mistake possible.

[Schiffer] Then al-Asad can simply rest peacefully and go on letting the rejectionist organizations do as they please.

[Rabin] I did not say that. Action must be taken against them, but we must always keep the goal in mind. Terror has never been eradicated with one fell swoop. Terror has never been eradicated solely by military means, without supplementary political means. Mistakes must not be made.

[Schiffer] The regular killing of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers every week....

[Rabin, interrupting] Sir, mistakes must not be made. People must know that in the absence of a political solution with Syria, we will have to pay a bloody toll in Lebanon.

[Ya'ari] In the 1960's, Israel conducted air raids on training camps used by the terrorists near Damascus in al-Hama and al-Zabadani. Isn't this on the agenda today?

[Rabin] Whoever wants to get Katyusha salvos or to engage in a war with Syria.... [pauses] The situation at that time does not resemble the one today. We are living a totally different reality. Whoever is prepared to go to war in Lebanon once again and pay a more painful price than we paid in 1982, 1983, 1984, until mid-1985, let him do so. I will not do it. I know that Israel faces tough enemies; I know that without a political solution, we will not put an end to the pain of casualties in Lebanon. Therefore, we must show our resistance and find solutions, seeing that certain incidents could have been avoided and need not have happened. This is a war we must wage and tackle. We must know that without a political solution with Syria, there will be no solution to the terror from Lebanon.

[Ya'ari] Something happened in Malta to a figure who had been living in Damascus in recent years. A Jordanian colleague asked us to permit her to ask you a question. Here it is:

[Rakad al-Hadid, in Arabic] Mr. Rabin, how has Fathi al-Shaqaqi's assassination affected the peace process? Who do you think is responsible for his assassination, the fact that Israel's Mosad is being blamed for it notwithstanding?

[Rabin] I do not think it is exactly my duty to answer her questions. The headquarters of the Islamic Jihad has been in Damascus for years, while Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been moving in the direction of Damascus. Of course, some members of Hamas and, certainly, the Islamic Jihad are the allies of Iran, are linked to Iran, and receive aid from Iran. In the face of radical Islamic terror, particularly in light of the fact that the statement in which Hamas assumed responsibility for the suicide bombings in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem was broadcast on al-Quds Radio in Syria.... [pauses] These are the main enemies. They are the enemies of peace; they announce that the political goal of their terror is to torpedo the peace. In their latest statement, I am the main enemy, and the question is how to bring down the government I head in order to eliminate the chances for peace. There are people in Israel who would also like to see that, but at least Hamas and the Islamic Jihad say so publicly.

[Deqel] Could his assassination, at a time when the Islamic groups are engaged in a dialogue with 'Arafat, affect the process under way between 'Arafat and Israel?

[Rabin] I would like to make one thing clear: 'Arafat became our partner in the process of reconciliation between the Palestinians and Israel. I would like to quote Tomas Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia, who said that there is no need to love one another in order to attain peaceful coexistence. We chose 'Arafat and the PLO as the partner for reconciliation and a solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. I would like to say that since 1993, the PLO has stopped its terrorist attacks and no Israeli has been hurt. Those who perpetrate the attacks are Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, and we must fight them, just as we must fight demented terror. Since April 1993, we have not experienced on the part of Palestinian elements....

[Schiffer, interrupting] Did you take into consideration the possibility that you might be starting a bloody cycle, that Israeli and Jewish institutions might be harmed as a result of al-Shaqaqi's assassination?

[Rabin] This is a bitter war against demented, radical terror. From the beginning of 1994 to this day, some 70 percent of the Israeli casualties were sustained in suicide bombings, a phenomenon we had not experienced before, save in Lebanon. As for the Palestinians, we never experienced a suicide attack in the true sense of the word — namely, a man who carries explosives on his body, in his car, or in his bag and detonates them, knowing that he is going to be blown to pieces, only to kill Israelis.

[Deqel] If this is a war, then why doesn't Israel declare that its goal is to kill the leaders, even if they are in Damascus?

[Rabin] A war on terror is not waged with declarations. So- called terror experts abound everywhere. A war on terror must be waged with brains, wisdom, and daring and not with words. Even if there are casualties on our side, we must go on hitting those who execute and conduct the terror. Otherwise, terror will continue to rage, regardless of the terrorists' degree of experience.

[Schiffer] Mr. Rabin, in a briefing to journalists in Tel Aviv today, a U.S. diplomatic source said that the negotiations between Israel and Syria are stuck due to the fact, among other things, that you, the prime minister, decided not to move the process until the elections. What is your position? Do you estimate that there is no chance of getting the negotiations with Syria moving? Do you think the Israeli public can bear yet another set of negotiations or the concession of the entire Golan Heights?

[Rabin] I have said more than once in the past that I ran for the leadership of my party and ran in the 1992 elections in order to become the prime minister and not just to sit in my chair and judge my actions by this or that public opinion poll. There is a certain path I believe in, and I think we are living in a time of historic opportunity. I tackled the Palestinian issue — and I believe in this process — knowing where I was headed and what my goal was, and I am prepared to tackle the Syrian issue. With regard to the Syrian issue, the negotiations were not halted because of Israel. Three or four months ago....

[Schiffer, interrupting] You have said that quite a few times in recent months. Ultimately, the negotiations will get moving not because of what you said or he said. Has the basis been created for a resumption of the negotiations between Israel and Syria?

[Rabin] I cannot say that with certainty. I can say that the problem with the negotiations with Syria is different than that with the Egyptians prior to or after al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem; than that with the Palestinians, with whom we sat for seven months in Oslo without anybody knowing about it; or than with the Jordanians and with King Husayn, whom almost all Israeli prime ministers met in the past. The Syrians do not want to meet with us, and that is why I must rely on the Americans as go-betweens. We agreed on something; two phases were fulfilled, but the third was not. The Americans themselves tell us that they understand us and that they will try to achieve what they stated in Damascus. Yesterday I met with Dennis Ross, who was sent by the secretary of state and who participated in the meeting with al-Asad. I have not yet giving up on it. It was not Israel that stopped the negotiating process on the basis of the understanding reached between the Americans, the Syrians, and us. It was the Syrians that did so.

[Deqel] There is still a year before the elections. If you manage to attain some kind of agreement with Syria in the next year, will it be right to assume that you will advance the Knesset elections and hold them as a referendum on the Golan? Will you make the citizens go to the ballot boxes twice?

[Rabin] If I reach an agreement with the Syrians in February or March, I will prefer to hold a referendum on this treaty — if we reach an agreement; if we do — while the elections must be held at the end of October. On the Syrian issue, I declared and promised to the Knesset and to the public to put a peace treaty to a referendum because the position of the Labor Party and my position as its leader in the election campaign in

1992 could have been interpreted as not advocating a significant withdrawal in exchange for peace. Therefore, seeing that the public was not told about it in advance, a special referendum must be held.

[Ya'ari] The Syrians claim they are not convinced that Mr. Rabin indeed wants and is politically and psychologically prepared for an agreement before the elections. Are you prepared to tell President al-Asad from this podium: Yes, under the right conditions I am prepared to make an agreement before October 1996?

[Rabin] In March this year, before departing for a meeting with President al-Asad, Secretary of State Christopher asked me: Do you want peace with Syria? Can you obtain support for a peace with Syria? I told him: Yes, of course; not under a Syrian dictate, but in negotiations that will end in the fulfillment of Israel's security needs and on condition that the full peace will be entrenched over a longer period than the full peace with Egypt before we complete our withdrawal to the line on which we will agree. Let us not forget that Israel withdrew to the middle of the Sinai Peninsula at the end of 1979 or beginning of 1980. There were two years and four months of full peace on the al-'Arish-Ras Muhammad line without a withdrawal on our part. This followed al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Aren't we entitled to demand a test of full peace before we finish withdrawing to the line to be agreed upon on the Golan Heights? [passage omitted]

[Ya'ari] Mr. Rabin, will 'Arafat accept your map, which includes the West Bank without, for example, the 'Etzyon Bloc and East Jerusalem?

[Rabin] No, he does not accept this map. We all know why the letter of invitation to the Madrid Conference stated that we should proceed in two stages. The Madrid Conference was the first international conference that declared that the Palestinians are partners. During the first stage, when the Likud was still in power, and also during the initial stages of the present government, the PLO did not show us its true face. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is now forming an anti-'Arafat party because he believes 'Arafat has given Israel too much. And where is their star, Hanan 'Ashrawi?

[Ya'ari] She will be back.

[Deqel] Mr. Rabin, President 'Ezer Weizman said that a majority of 61 Knesset members is a problematic majority for making crucial decisions.

[Rabin] I prefer to go by what Menahem Begin said at the time — namely, that in a democracy, a majority of one is still a majority. In order to make myself as clear as possible, let me state that as long as the government that I head has a majority of one, I will continue to implement what I believe in the peace process with both the Palestinians and the Syrians.

[Schiffer] Mr. Rabin, how do you feel these days, when almost every contact you have with the public is accompanied by tight security? More and more policemen and guards can be seen protecting you from the public.

[Rabin] Last night I had a pleasant surprise. I was granted a very warm welcome during the Israeli Film Academy awards ceremony. I realize that wild incitement and verbal violence are taking place; there is violence on the Israeli street. With this in mind, nobody should be surprised by the casualties in road accidents. Violence, just like discipline in the army, cannot be divided: Without discipline on the administrative level, there can be no discipline on the operational level. If there is verbal violence in the Knesset and violence in the street, there will also be violence on the roads.

[Deqel] Is the right wing alone responsible for this situation?

[Rabin] I did not say that. Whoever cultivates violence is responsible.

[Ya'ari] Is it not worthwhile to attempt to reach an understanding with the main opposition, the Likud, regarding certain norms of behavior which both sides will honor. In that event, it will be possible to see who is violating them.

[Rabin] I do not think there is any question regarding who is violating them. I saw the demonstration in Jerusalem in which I was depicted in a Gestapo uniform. I also saw David Levi, a Knesset member [MK] and former Likud minister, being chased away by an angry mob. I saw the violence in front of the Knesset.

MK Netanyahu, the Likud chairman, asked me to hold a meeting with him on the Thursday or Friday before I left for the United States. I arrived home on Friday afternoon and encountered a demonstration, Likud slogans, shouts of traitor and murderer. I realized it would be sheer stupidity on my part to play the hypocritical game of the Likud chairman. He sat there and delivered a speech under the Gestapo pictures. He proposes we meet while he takes part in these demonstrations. I do not believe him.

[Deqel] Such being the case, the situation will continue to deteriorate until the elections.

[Rabin] This may happen, if the Likud so decides. We are not responsible for this violence.

[Deqel] Mr. Rabin, you are the prime minister.

[Rabin] I cannot do anything about the violence outside the boundaries of the law.

If I may say so, regarding the Syrian issue, I have additional proof today regarding messages Netanyahu sent to the Syrians to the effect that they would do better to wait until after the elections.

[Ya'ari] What do these messages say?

[Rabin] They say the Syrians should wait, but I do not want to go into details.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Prime Minister, the three of us are very curious people. Do the messages sent by Mr. Netanyahu to Syria include something that is opposed to, contradictory, or different from what Netanyahu is saying in public?

[Rabin] Most certainly.

[Ya'ari] Do they refer to the range of withdrawal on the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] I said nothing about ranges.

[Schiffer] Why are you not divulging the details? What you are doing here is ethically wrong.

[Rabin] Let me reiterate that the emphasis is on telling the Syrians they would do better to wait. What does this statement — they would do better to wait — mean? They are familiar with our positions. The Likud keeps attacking us, but let me put this clearly: If Netanyahu tells the Syrians that they would do better to wait, what is the main problem?

[Ya'ari] His message has not been relayed only by Christopher, has it?

[Rabin] I did not say through whom. I will not endanger reliable intelligence sources, but let me reiterate that this has been said.

[Schiffer] Mr. Prime Minister, allow me to ask you a personal question regarding your candidacy for the premiership in 1996. Aren't you concerned that the Likud will focus on the issue of your age? You are 72 and a half years old today.

[Rabin] What are you talking about? I am 73 and a half. On 1 March 1996 I will be 74. I am not trying to hide my age. I am not a woman, and everybody knows my true age.

[Schiffer] Do you think that at your age, you will be able to confront a relatively young, 47-year-old candidate?

[Rabin] I think every person should be judged on his own merits. I think that stigmas or objective facts.... [pauses] I know many young people whom I consider old, and I know some older people whom I consider young. Assuming I will be the candidate, I think the Israeli public should choose between an experienced, healthy man and someone who completely lacks experience in leading a country. This will be the choice faced by the Israeli public.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Prime Minister, can we consider these remarks an official declaration of your intention to run for the premiership as the Labor candidate?

[Rabin] No. I said: assuming I will be the candidate.

[Ya'ari] Why are you delaying this announcement?

[Rabin] My primary mission is to advance the peace process. I do not think that at the moment, as prime minister, I have to make any announcements. As prime minister, and together with Peres and my colleagues in the government, we are carrying out a historic move in the peace process and are also changing Israel's general situation, its economic situation, and its status in the Middle East and worldwide.

Rabin 'Optimistic' on Bypass Roads Progress

TA3110181395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the work on the bypass roads in Judaea and Samaria is proceeding, which makes him optimistic that by the end of December it will be possible to start the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria, excluding Hebron. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin noted slight changes will be introduced to the Judaea and Samaria redeployment map, adding that it has already been agreed that the Ashkenazi cemetery in Hebron will be returned to Israeli control. Rabin made these remarks in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session.

Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin says that since the establishment of the autonomy, large quantities of standard explosives have been smuggled into Gaza and Jericho for the purpose of carrying out attacks against Israel. Begin submitted to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee a secret document coming from the chief of staff's bureau, indicating that since the beginning of last year standard explosives have been used for perpetrating 38 attacks in which 65 people were killed. MK Begin claims that these figures prove that Gaza and Jericho have turned into an explosives cache, and that a similar situation is to be expected in Judaea and Samaria cities.

In reaction, Prime Minister Rabin said that he has received different figures from the General Staff.

Peres: Progress With Syria Still Possible

TA0111172095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that a breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria could still occur in the months ahead. He said that if an arrangement is formulated, it could very well be put to a vote in a referendum on the day of the Knesset elections. According to him, Secretary Christopher got the impression that President al-Asad wants to pursue the peace process, and efforts are now under way to translate this situation into real progress. Minister Peres' remarks were reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Syria To Resume Talks If Ground Stations Not Issue

TA0111191195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria agrees to resume the officers talks on condition that Israel agrees to discuss all the security issues rather than insisting on first discussing the early-warning ground stations on the Golan Heights.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres divulged this evening that President al-Asad has hinted that he will agree to upgrade the level of talks with Israel if the officers talks yield positive results. At the same time, our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports, Jerusalem sources remain pessimistic regarding the chances of resuming the negotiations with Syria.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 1 November adds that speaking to political correspondents in Jerusalem this evening, Peres stated that "he is against advancing the elections, because this would thwart the possibility of pursuing the negotiations with Syria."]

Peres Meets EU Troika, Welcomes Aid

TA2710143595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon today, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met the EU troika delegation headed by the Spanish foreign minister. In the meeting, Foreign Minister Peres said the EU has a vital role to play in aiding the Middle East and particularly the Palestinian Authority. Mr. Peres emphasized that Israel does not need financial aid, but the aid to the Palestinians should focus on educating and training the young generation, as well as on the fertilization of the soil through irrigation and fighting desertification. At the same time. Mr. Peres added that the real guarantee for stability and security is inherent in the democratization of the Palestinian society — therefore he welcomes the EU aid to organize elections in the territories.

Referring to the negotiations with Syria, Mr. Peres said time is being wasted on quibbling over formal issues and phrasings, while the important thing is to discuss content. Peres believes the level of negotiations should be upgraded to facilitate dealing with a wide variety of issues rather than being limited to one particular point.

Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the deputy president of the EU will depart this afternoon for Damascus for talks with Syria's leaders. Tomorrow he will go to Amman in anticipation of the opening of the economic conference there.

IDF's Biran on Preparedness, 'Partial Solutions'

TA3110183995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some three weeks before the evacuation of the first city in Judaea and Samaria, Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, said today that the security problems of Israeli settlements along the dividing line have only partially been resolved within the framework of the interim agreement. According to Gen. Biran, much more is yet to be done, despite the fact that a decision has been made to erect an electronic fence in the areas of Tulkarm and Qalqilyah. Our army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz reports:

[Begin recording] [Lifshitz] Long fences, helicopters, well-lit intrusion-tracking dirt roads, and dogs to patrol them — all these ideas have been raised over the past several months in the deliberations over Minister Shahal's separation plan, but no real work is seen on the ground. This was confirmed by Gen. Biran, commander of the Central Command.

[Biran] Currently, under the new arrangement, only very partial solutions have been introduced in the dividing line area. There is a lot more that needs to be done.

[Lifshitz] Biran stressed, however, that the staff work regarding the construction of an electronic fence along the dividing line in the Tulkarm and Qalqilyah area has been completed. It will cost some 60 million shekels.

Referring to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] conduct in the areas of the redeployment in the territories, Biran said that a new booklet on open-fire regulations will be issued soon, to replace the current Green Book that the soldiers follow.

[Biran] The changes are introduced in the wake of the agreement; that is, in areas under Palestinian control — such as Ramallah or any other site we call brown or A zones — the soldiers will have limited powers. They may respond only if their life is being threatened, but may not conduct hot pursuit or deal with civilians.

[Lifshitz] According to Biran, the redeployment will require the employment of more forces than usual, and the IDF is beefing up its units in the territories preparing for the evacuation of the cities. In the short run, we have to be extra alert, the general said, for fear of terror attacks, acts of revenge, or riots in the wake of the elimination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 31 October adds: "Maj. Gen. Biran said that the fact that Israel has so far failed to harm Yahya 'Ayyash, the engineer, is a failure. He added that everything must be done to harm him."]

UK's Rifkind on Mideast Trip, U.S. Embassy Move

TA0211103695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Nov 95 p 9

[Report by Eli Qamir and Tal Shahaf in London]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Britain does not support the U.S. Congress decision to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem." This remark was made by Malcolm Rifkind, Britain's Jewish foreign secretary, speaking to Israeli reporters on the eve of his departure on a Middle East tour. Regarding his expected visit to Orient House, he said: "I will be following EU policy which states that ministers who visit the region will also visit Orient House."

The British foreign secretary will be leaving on a Middle East tour at the beginning of next week. He will visit Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Egypt.

On the eve of his departure, Rifkind hosted Israel reporters in his office. A part of the discussion addressed the Jerusalem issue. "In view of the fact that the issue of Jerusalem has been put off until the next stage of Israeli-Palestinian talks, I believe that the international community should avoid making statements about it," he said.

Malcolm Rifkind will be the first Jewish foreign minister since Henry Kissinger to meet with Syrian and other Arab leaders. Answering a question regarding the possibility that his Jewish origin might cause a problem, he said: "We have all grown up. I believe that the Syrian president will receive me as an official who represents Britain's stands."

Tal Shahaf adds: The prime minister's bureau made it clear yesterday that the rule Rabin set regarding visits by foreign diplomats to Orient House applies only to the levels above the foreign minister [as published]. Rabin will, therefore, be willing to receive Rifkind in his office even if he chooses to visit Orient House.

Jerusalem Municipality To Demolish 2 PA Buildings

TA0111172495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Jerusalem Municipality inspectors issued orders to demolish two buildings, one near Gilo and the other in the 'Atarot area, which have been used as offices of the Palestinian Authority [PA], in contravention of the agreements. The demolition orders are scheduled to be executed tomorrow.

'Sources': Redeployment To Continue Despite Attacks

TA0211115195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty-four Palestinian officers are on their way from Jericho to Janin to prepare for the arrival of the main force in the city. The group is headed by General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian police in the West Bank, and Ziyad al-Atrash, head of the security committee. Israel permitted the officers to arrive in Janin wearing uniforms and bearing arms.

Security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that despite the attacks in Gaza and Ramallah, it has been decided to continue the preparations for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria.

Car Bomb Explodes in Qatif Bloc; Casualties

TA0211060095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Anchorman Me'ir Einstein] We have just received a report on a terrorist attack in the south. Our correspondent in the south Nisim Qeynan is on the phone:

[Qeynan] A short while ago a car bomb exploded on the main road in the Qatif Bloc near the Kissufim roadblock. So far we have learned of two or three wounded whose condition is unknown. The army has blocked all the area, and the wounded are being treated. It is still unclear who planted the car bomb.

[Einstein] Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky has another update on the bombing:

[Bushinsky] My information is not similar to Nisim Qeynan's, and I sincerely hope that his information is more accurate. From what I have learned, there were two explosions, possibly two car bombs. According to reports that have reached the police — and we have no other information to corroborate this — there were 17 to 20 casualties in these two explosions. I hope that Nisim Qeynan is correct and fewer persons were wounded, but these are the reports obtained by the police.

Seven Reported Injured

TA0211061995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two car bombs exploded in the Kissufim area in the Qatif Bloc this morning. According to initial reports, nobody was killed in the attacks. In an attack near the Qatif Bloc junction, a car bomb exploded near an Israeli bus. Approximately seven Israelis were wounded, most of them slightly. In another attack near the Netzer Hazani junction there were no injuries.

Ofir Kohen, a Kfar Darom resident, told Qol Yisra'el that medical teams are still in the area, which has been sealed off.

The Palestinian police in Gaza believe that the attack was perpetrated to avenge the murder of Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta. Palestinian policemen are on their way to the area of the attacks.

Israeli security elements view with gravity the fact that the attacks were carried out in the Palestinian Authority [PA] area, under the PA's nose. This is reported by our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky, Nisim Qeynan, and Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Further Details Reported

TA0211091495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight Israelis were wounded in the double attack in the Qatif Bloc and near the Kissufim junction this morning. In a briefing to correspondents, it was reported that three soldiers were slightly wounded, four Israeli civilians suffered slight injuries, and one civilian was moderately wounded.

The two damaged vehicles are buses, one of them an Egged bus carrying passengers from the Qatif Bloc and the other a bus owned by a private company transporting workers to the Qatif Bloc.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan notes that the alertness of soldiers escorting the Egged bus prevented a disaster. The soldiers stopped the bus when they noticed the explosion near the first bus. At that point the second booby-trapped car drove in the direction of the Egged bus and exploded some 50 meters away from it. Nobody was wounded in this second explosion.

Later, an explosive charge was discovered on the Morag road in the Qatif Bloc. This bomb was safely dismantled.

IDF Closes Gaza Roads

TA0211100695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following this morning's attack in the Qatif Bloc, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has closed all roads in the Gaza Strip to Palestinian traffic. Members of the Palestinian police force have arrived at the explosion site near the Kissufim junction and are fully cooperating with the IDF forces by blocking traffic according to its directions. This was reported by the commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that according to the IDF division commander, the IDF had expected Islamic Jihad retaliation following Fathi al- Shaqaqi's murder in Malta.

The division commander said that in the first incident near the junction, the escort soldiers had spotted the booby-trapped car ambushing one of the buses. A military jeep drove toward the car and ordered its driver to leave the area. When the driver started driving toward one of the buses, the commander of the jeep attempted to run him off the road. At that point the driver detonated the bomb, and the car exploded near the bus.

The division commander said that the IDF has learned the necessary lessons from the Kfar Darom attack by reducing the level of bus traffic in the region while at the same time stepping up its escort and guard duty along the roads. He noted that this morning's attack was carried out in the Gaza Strip because the terrorists had failed to enter Israel.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem adds that in yesterday's meeting of the supreme steering committee, Israel rejected the Palestinian demand to lift the restrictions imposed over the last few days on the entrance of Gaza Strip residents into the Green Line. The Palestinians were told that Israel still possesses information regarding terrorist organizations' plans to carry out attacks inside Israel and that, therefore, the restrictions would not be lifted.

So far no organization has assumed responsibility for the two attacks in the Qatif Bloc this morning, but Israeli and Palestinian Authority sources assess that the attacks were planned and carried out by extremist Islamic elements to avenge the murder of Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Civilian Shot Near West Bank Settlement

TA0111074495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli civilian was shot near the settlement of Kokhav Ya'aqov east of Ramallah about an hour ago. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that he was hit by three bullets, and he is reported in serious condition. He is now being moved to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. The security forces are investigating the circumstances of the shooting.

Our correspondent notes that a Kokhav Ya'aqov resident was shot in the same location several months ago.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 1 November adds that the Israeli civilian was wounded while driving his car, which was hit by five bullets, "apparently from a moving car."]

DFLP Caller Claims Responsibility for Shooting

NC0111173895 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Ramallah, West Bank, Nov 1 (AFP)— Gunmen shot and seriously wounded a rabbi from a Jewish settlement as he drove his car near the West Bank town of Ramallah on Wednesday [1 November], military sources said.

Rabbi 'Uzi Nevo was shot three times in the chest from an overtaking car near the Kokhav Ya'aqov settlement.

A man who said he represented the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We opened fire on the settlers' car to protest the continued presence of Israeli settlements on our land," the man, who did not identify himself, told AFP over the telephone.

The man said the attack was carried out by the armed wing of the militant DFLP, which opposes the Palestinian autonomy accords signed with Israel.

Five other spent cartridges were found in the bloody interior of the car. The attackers took the rabbi's Uzi sub-machine gun before fleeing, a military spokesman said.

"The assailants followed their victim before opening fire. They then fled and abandoned their car, a white Golf, near El-Bireh, which had been stolen at gunpoint from a UN official a short time earlier," the spokesman said.

The anonymous caller said the DFLP had left political pamphlets in the car, but an Israeli military official refused to confirm whether they had been found. [passage omitted]

Brotherhood Condemns al-Shaqaqi's Assassination

JN0111144195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 27

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan condemned the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, a Jihad leader on the land from which Prophet Muhammad ascended to Heaven, perpetrated by the terrorist Jewish enemy which persists in its arrogance and with its usurpation of rights and the attainment of the Zionist scheme.

In a statement it issued yesterday, received by AL-DUSTUR by fax, the Muslim Brotherhood stressed the Palestinian people's right to pursue their legitimate jihad to regain their rights, and to liberate their land and holy places from the filth of the Zionist occupation. The Muslim Brotherhood called on all honest people and national forces to support the Palestinian people, their cause, and their just jihad.

Poll: Most Palestinians Favor Unity With Nation

JN2810225495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—More than two-thirds of Palestinians are in favour of some sort of future union between their territories and Jordan, an opinion poll published Friday [27 October] showed.

The poll, carried out by two research institutes in Nabulus and Jordan, showed that 74 per cent of those questioned were in favour of some kind of union, 22 per cent were against and four per cent expressed no opinion.

Among those in favour of a union, 60 per cent want a confederation of two separate states, seven per cent a federation within one common state, while 25 per cent would like the territories to be simply integrated into Jordan.

Eight out of 10 of those questioned believe Jordanians and Palestinians have special links, according to the results of the poll.

Part of the survey was carried out in mid-October among a representative sample of 1,144 people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies in Nabulus.

The Strategic Studies Institute of Jordan University carried out the other part of the research, questioning 1,600 people, including 400 Palestinian refugees.

The researchers said there was a three per cent margin of error.

The study, released on Friday by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan,—and drawn from samples from Jordan, refugee camps, the West Bank and Gaza Strip—showed that 77 per cent of Palestinians in the West Bank and 77.5 per cent Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are in favour of unified constitutional links with Jordan.

While Palestinians interviewed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip [as published] favoured confederation with a percentage of 44.7 per cent in the West Bank and 53.7 in the Gaza Strip, 51.8 per cent of Jordanians showed interest in restoring the pre-1967 status of the territories.

The highest percentage to favour this shape of unity, however, was refugee camp residents whose support was rated at 68.6 per cent.

"This is understandable," said Mustafa Hamarnah, the centre's director. "They want independence but they want some kind of links with Jordan too.

The study involved 1,200 Jordanians, 400 camp residents, 729 West Bankers and 415 Gazans. It was the fourth study conducted by the centre in Jordan.

The first opinion poll, on the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, concentrated mainly on the domestic dimension. It was followed by roundtable discussions in April. The February study, released in September, showed consensus among the political and social circles in Jordan that relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians must be treated through innovative approaches that take into account the uniqueness and particularities of society.

This study also showed that Palestinians believe in the unique and positive relationship that exists between the two peoples. However, Palestinians expressed different views over the existing relationship between the Palestinian Authority and Jordan, Syria and Egypt.

The study showed that the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip believed that the relationship between the Palestinian National authority (PNA) and the Egyptian government was better than its relationship with the Jordanian government.

While 84.9 of those interviewed in the Gaza Strip believed the PNA to have close ties with Egypt, only 74.1 [figure as published] per cent believed the authority maintains close ties with Jordan. In terms of its relationship with Syria, the percentage was the lowest, showing only 28 per cent of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank who think the PNA has strong relations with Syria.

The study also showed that 63 per cent of Palestinians interviewed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip believed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty ensured Jordan's full rights in security while only a small percent said Jordan secured its rights in land and water, 36 and 25.8 respectively. However, a majority of Jordanians, in all cases, believed Jordan secured its full rights in the three domains.

While Jordanians were mixed on the final shape of the Palestinian entity, ranging from a self-rule under Israeli domination to an independent Palestinian state passing through some kind of a Palestinian entity, the majority of West Bankers and Gazans believed that the peace process will produce an independent Palestinian state.

The results of the study were described by one analyst who preferred not to be named as highly surprising, especially in terms of the Palestinians' approach, view and aspirations towards the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

"There is closeness between the two peoples much more than we and they think," the analyst said.

Centrists Reject Poll Findings

JN2910201495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 95 pp 3, 4

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Centrist AL-'AHD Party Saturday [28 October] cast doubts on the veracity of a recent opinion poll showing Palestinians and Jordanians favouring different forms of unity and said that the time was not ripe to tackle Jordan's future ties with what it described as "unknown Palestinian entity."

"The poll does not reflect the exact opinion of Jordanians," said 'Ab-al-Hadi al-Majali, secretary general of AL-'AHD Party. "We do not know anything about the sample selected for the purpose. Perhaps most of them were Jordanians of Palestinian origin."

Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan which conducted the study, dismissed the assertion and said all "uninformed discussions about the sample are ideologically rooted."

A breakdown of the numbers, made available to the JORDAN TIMES, shows that the number of Jordanians of East Bank origin who favour unity with any future Palestinian entity exceeded that of Jordanians of Palestinian origin. Out of 1,200 Jordanians polled, 1,007 said they favour unity: 551 were East Bankers and 456 were Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

The poll, released on Friday, was carried out by the Centre for Strategic Studies in cooperation with the Nablus-based Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies, on a sample of 1,144 people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and 1,600 Jordanians, including 400 refugee camp residents.

The poll showed that Jordanians, camp residents and Palestinians are in favour of some sourt of a future union between the two peoples with percentages of 86.7, 94.7 and 77.2 per cent respectively. However, they differed over the final shape of that unity.

While 44.7 per cent of West Bankers and 53.7 per cent of Gazans favoured confederation, 51.8 per cent of Jordanians showed interest in restoring the pre-1967 arrangement when the West Bank was part of Jordan. The highest percentage of support in favour of this shape of unity came from refugee camp residents, 68.8 per cent.

"Everyone wants unity... if asked," said Mr. al-Majali. "But which kind of unity can we discuss now? Can there be unity with people who do not have a land?"

Mr. al-Majali, also a deputy at the Lower House of Parliament, contended that unity between Palestinian entity should not be tackled at present. He claimed that the results of the opinion poll that showed Jordanians and Palestinians desire for unity cannot possibly be taken into account since "it depends on the manner in which the questions were put."

"This is censorship," said Dr. Hamarneh. "Those who reject the results of the study are assuming things without scientifically reading or analysing the results."

"This is unacceptable too," he added.

Dr. Hamarneh, whose centre has two polls and one round table discussion on the future of Palestinian-Jordanian ties this year, said the centre stands by its findings.

Our mission "is to provide data for everybody involved in the political life to help them make decisions. We have no preference," Dr. Hamarneh said.

"Our findings are useful and can be described as goldmines for researchers in the social science."

Al-'Ahd Party Views Measures on Palestinians

JN0111153695 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 30 Oct 95 p 1

[Statement issued by the al-'Ahd Party; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] While closely following the achievements of the Palestinian brethren in the negotiations with israel, which herald the realization of Palestinian legitimacy on Palestinian national soil, the al-'Ahd [Pledge] Party appreciates these achievements as a prelude to an independent Palestinian entity.

Stemming from the al-'Ahd Party's principles and objectives, which emphasize the special character of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship within the framework of acknowledging the two distinct identities of both fraternal peoples, and also stemming from our rejection of both occupation and the alternative homeland conspiracy, we call for studying and reviewing any decisions made by any party with care and accuracy, especially the decisions concerning the distinguished relationship between both fraternal peoples.

Through our firm belief in the need for cooperation and solidarity between both fraternal peoples as a prelude to a future agreed upon unionist formula following the establishment of a Palestinian state, we express reservations over the premature unionist formulas currently being proposed because they circumvent the vital and basic issues for which no acceptable solutions have thus far been reached.

Based on our respect for the state of law and constitutional institutions, we stress the need for any measures or any specific positions, which have political dimensions concerning the political rights of both fraternal peoples, to pass through the legislative channels in the constitutional institutions.

Hence, we express reservations over taking any measures which grant or deny the right to permanent citizenship. Stemming from our continued support for the Palestinian brethren until their legitimate demands are achieved and until their independent state is established on the ground, we demand that any measures taken by the Jordanian Government or the Palestinian Authority should not circumvent the basic constants related to free decisionmaking by both peoples in the future.

Electricity Accord Signed With Palestinian Authority

JN0111173895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority, the PNA, have signed a memorandum of understanding for the exchange of expertise in the maintenance and operation of electricity generating projects.

The agreement, signed by Jordan's Electricity Authority Director Muhammad 'Arafah and the PNA's Energy Authority Director 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hamad, also covers training, research, use of computers, and renewable energy, and management of electric power installations.

The Palestinian delegation also met Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah, and discussed bilateral cooperation.

Al-Hariri on Israel's 'Upper Hand' in Agreements

NC0111140295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has asserted that Israel has got the upper hand in all the agreements signed with the Arab parties so far. Lebanon and Syria reject this logic; they seek an agreement that will secure the Israeli forces' unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese and Syrian territories.

Al-Hariri said Lebanon will spearhead the efforts to confront Israel's ambitions to control the region economically in the peace era. He expressed his confidence in the Lebanese people's ability to confront the economic challenges of the peace era.

Prime Minister al-Hariri was addressing a Lebanese Rotary delegation. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Leaves for Damascus To Meet al-Asad

NC0211092795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Statement issued by the General Department of the Presidency information section; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] President al-Hirawi left for Damascus this morning to hold a summit meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting between the two leaders will start at 1100 today.

President al-Hirawi apologizes for being unable to receive deputies on their regular weekly appointments, because of the meetings of the Lebanese-Syrian summit.

Al-Shaqaqi Murder, Amman Summit Viewed

NC0111130795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Nov 95

[From the "Pause With an Event" program: "Multifaceted Onslaughts on the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last week witnessed an important onslaught on the region and its peoples, an onslaught that will affect the region's present and future. The onslaught involved attempts to tame the region's political and economic decisionmaking and force the regional leaders to join the group of capitulationists. The attempts do not shun the assassination of leaders, such as the assassination in Malta of martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Islamic Jihad Movement secretary general. The most serious aspect of these attempts is the sowing of the seeds of division between the Arab countries and organizations that are for or against a settlement.

The first offensive decision was made by the U.S. Congress, when it decided to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This decision coincided with Jewish celebrations marking the so-called anniversary of 3,000 years of Jerusalem as the capital of the alleged state of Israel. The U.S. decision means, among other things, recognizing Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the racist Zionist entity. Both the Likud and Labor parties agree on this issue. The U.S. decision is tantamount to a full condemnation of Yasir 'Arafat and the reconciliation process. The decision also runs counter to the UN resolutions relating to the holy city. This decision, which constitutes aggression against Jerusalem and the dignity of Muslims and Arabs, was rejected by the European countries and the PRC. They considered it to be unrealistic and contradicting a neutral U.S. role in the settlement process in the Middle East. The Arab countries also considered the U.S. decision harmful to the atmosphere of talks, provoking the emotions of Muslims and Christians. The PLO considered itself a husband cheated by his wife. 'Arafat called for an emergency Arab summit to condemn the U.S. Congress decision. What use would this be after years of being bogged down in a quagmire?

The U.S.-sponsored Amman economic summit represents the second onslaught. [passage omitted]

The Amman summit increased the rift separating the Arab regimes. The tension that surfaced between Egypt and Jordan during the conference is the best proof of this. The Amman summit will worsen things among the Arab countries and destroy the bridges between the regimes and their peoples. This is because the regimes will be linked by agreements to the Zionist enemy. These agreements will affect the economic and political future of these peoples. The Amman summit wants the Arab countries, particularly the Gulf region, to act as a milking cow and offer funds free. The Americans and the Israelis want to milk the cow whenever they want but do not want to give it what would sustain it. This attitude prompted several heads of Gulf delegations to turn down the idea of financing the proposed development fund.

The cowardly act of assassinating Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the staunchest opponent of the process of capitulation to the enemy, represents the third onslaught. The Mosad carried out the assassination in the same way it has moved against the mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and Palestine. The assassination of martyr al-Shaqaqi is no different from the assassination of 'Abbas al-Musawi, the Islamic Resistance's most prominent martyr. Israel follows the same method though the means are different. Despite the pain it caused the mujahidin, the assassination will only increase their resolve to continue jihad until complete liberation. This aggression will not go unpunished. The punishment will be commensurate with the magnitude of the crime. The Zionists in Palestine and elsewhere know this. Horror and panic grip them and they are certain their crime will not go unpunished. Muslims and mujahidin in Palestine and elsewhere will retaliate, because evil must be met with evil. The enemy has not claimed responsibility for the crime—through bad intentions. They may want to delude some into believing that the perpetrators are opponents of the Islamic Jihad Movement. Should this happen, God forbid, it will only bring further tribulation to the Palestinian people. The enemy is obvious: He is the killer of prophets and pious people, children and old people in the Golan, Sinai, south Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

The visit by the head of U.S. diplomacy, Warren Christopher, to Damascus represents the fourth onslaught on the region. During his brief visit to Damascus, Christopher brought nothing new. He only reiterated old positions and did not seek to meet the requirements of peace, which Damascus seeks. This will keep the negotiations stalled indefinitely. Syria refuses the deployment of early warning systems on its territory. So the stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli track is expected to continue. The negotiating process is even expected to collapse, as the Syrians say, if Israel keeps insisting on keeping early warning systems on Syrian territory after signing a peace agreement.

The United States and Israel are making bloody and political attempts to force the Arabs to conclude peace in any way and to dominate their economic and financial resources to fulfill the old Torah dream of establishing a greater Israel. The first stage involves a greater Israel economically and the next a greater Israel geographically. Could they succeed? No one believes it could be that easy, because there are leaders who are not prepared to cede one inch of their land. And the peoples will remain determined to reject submission. The best proof is the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and Palestine. Every offensive attempt is bound to fail.

Clashes Continue Between Amal, Israelis

NC0111125995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south has reported that an agent force tried to cross the Bayt Yahun crossing in the direction of the liberated areas toward Tibnin.

Amal resistance men confronted the group of agents who tried to advance toward the liberated areas through the Bayt Yahun crossing. Clashes were going on until just before 1300, when this report was written. We learned that the agents retreated a few minutes later. We also learned that Israeli shelling, which continues until this point in time, hit Kafra, Yatar, and other liberated areas including 'Ayta al-Jabal. The shelling injured a child called Ibrahim Murtada. The commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in the south was forced to cut short his tour because of the enemy shelling.

The Amal operations' room in the south issued a statement in which it said the Israeli occupation forces and their agents expanded their circle of attacks on the south and its residents. Within this framework, joint Israeli-Lahdist groups tried to advance in the direction of the 'Ayta al-Jabal-Tibnin-Bra'shit axis. They clashed with advancing groups of the Lebanese Resistance mujahidin, Amal. Violent clashes ensued with rockets and machine-guns being fired. Israeli warplanes also took part in the clashes, which until 1245 were continuing violently. Losses are not yet determined because of the ferocity of the clashes.

Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Hold 'Closed-Door' Meeting

JN0211122795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at al-Rawdah Palace at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. This meeting was followed by a closed-door meeting between the two presidents.

Interior Minister Returns From Cyprus Visit

JN0211064995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus last night following a three-day visit to Cyprus.

During the visit, he met with Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis, and held talks with Interior Minister Dinos Mikhailidhis and Justice and Public Order Minister Alekos Evangelou.

At the end of the visit, Dr. Harbah signed two cooperation agreements, the first with the Cypriot interior minister, and the second with the justice and public order minister. These two agreements are aimed at joint cooperation among these ministries and their various organs, and provide for promoting the historic relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The two agreements also provide for cooperation in the field of criminal security, combating crime, and drug smuggling, in addition to citizens' movements between the two countries and the exchange of expertise, delegations, and visits.

In a statement before leaving Cyprus, Dr. Harbah expressed happiness with visiting Cyprus, and praised relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Cyprus in all fields. He said that these relations were promoted following the blessed Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Dr. Harbah lauded the fruitful cooperation between the interior ministries in both countries over the past years.

Amman Summit Aimed To Achieve Israeli 'Hegemony'

JN0111183595 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 31 Oct 95 p 3

["With the Events" column by Salih Salih: "Who is Gaining and Who is Footing the Bill?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before the Amman summit, there were promises of honey and milk.

Israeli officials have repeatedly said that prosperity would spread and that the Arabs would be the major beneficiaries from this prosperity. Nonetheless, this prophecy proved to be a lie. For disputes dominated the conference from the outset, and the conferees traded accusations in the opening session. Pessimism prevailed, and tension permeated the deliberations of the conference.

Everybody went to the conference with the intention of making the largest possible gains. The booty is the first thing the conferees had in mind, and their cases were opened to have them filled with dollars.

Nonetheless, when the talks began to address issues pertaining to payment and finance, the climate was electrified, the faces grew grim, and accusations were traded. The first accusation came from Europe, which accused the United States of paying lip service to the issues under consideration; meanwhile, Europe is asked to give money — so ran the European argument. Europe is aware of the game, and it will not be duped any longer.

As for inter-Arab differences, they were numerous and hard to hide.

Israel remained silent, because it knows what it wants. It wants the whole cake. It does not mind others quarreling over who would wash the dishes.

Observers are unanimous that this conference was an Israeli conference. They are unanimous that Israel prepared and carried out its scenario beginning with the conception of the conference and ending with the organization and coordination required. The results of the conference are intended to achieve complete Israeli economic, political, and military hegemony over the region.

This conference is the shortcut Israel is using to become a major partner in Arab resources, be they oil, gas, or river water resources.

The Arabs are the big losers in this conference, because they will foot all the bills. They will only reap further weakness, division, and conflicts, as well as openness and normalization, which the United States and Israel say must be expedited. This will turn the Arab states into markets for Israeli products, a booty for thievish Israeli companies, and a fertile ground for swindlers and tricksters.

The festival began in Amman with shouts and swear words. Let us just wait and see how the shares will be distributed.

Amman Summit Statements, Outcome Reported

JN0111144995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0535 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Report by Ghazi al-Dhib in Amman; from "Correspondent Dispatches" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Amman meeting was officially closed after three full days of numerous speeches, news conferences, lengthy sessions, discussions, and different opinions on the validity of the projects presented to the meeting in the absence of comprehensive peace in the region. Discussions and differences revolved mainly around the viability of the regional development bank.

A final statement was issued at the meeting. The statement discusses the establishment of four regional institutions. These are: The regional bank (discussions on its membership and finance will continue until the end of this year), a tourism council, a council to promote cooperation and trade, and an executive general secretariat.

The statement also includes a paragraph welcoming an end to the boycott of Israel and stresses that the meeting attendees support any additional efforts to end this boycott once and for all.

Observers here say that no one can predict the effectiveness and ability of the four institutions that have been set up. One of the most zealous supporters and promoters of the Amman meeting could not see any benefit from the meeting, except the talk about the ability to organize a major conference and the media clamor that surrounded such a conference.

A Jordanian official noted the relationship between the Jordanian citizen and the Amman meeting by saying: What is happening is that the region is being adjusted according to Israeli wishes. As for the ordinary citizen, if it were not for the security measures and the traffic diversions, he would not have felt there was a meeting in Amman despite the festive media climate that surrounded it.

The delegates who participated in the Amman meeting started leaving immediately after the closing session. The most prominent deal mentioned in the final statement is the Qatari-Israeli gas deal. The political damage is much greater than that. They are trying to erase the word Arab homeland from our dictionary in exchange for promises of an economic boom that are no more than a mirage and illusions.

Commentary on Rush to Peace, Israeli 'Arrogance'

JN0111171595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the most disturbing fact to Israel is that there is a tune in the region that differs from its own tune, especially since this tune is Arab in terms of origin, conduct, and aim. Israel wants the region, with its peoples, regimes, and rulers, to be employed in the interest of the Israeli chorus and to play the Israeli tune itself. Israel cannot bear to hear a voice or see a movement that is not in harmony with its tune, or, in other words, its schemes and strategy. For Israel to accept it, peace in the region must be peace the Israeli way. Therefore, Israel opposes international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions because it recognizes only its own legitimacy and decisions. In Israel's view, whoever opposes that and calls for peace based on international legitimacy is a terrorist and an enemy of peace. Israel deals with the region and its issues from a position of strength and believes that the influential international powers, for domestic considerations, will not stand against it. In addition, the rush, or even the running of some Arab regimes to join Israel's chorus has increased its arrogance and feeling that it is capable of controlling the region's destiny.

It seems that the leaders of Israel are not good readers of history, especially the history of this region. Throughout this long history, Syria learned to play no tune but the Arab tune, one that it is now playing most beautifully. When Syria plays the Arab tune, it is reverberated by the Arab masses. Syria was and will remain the conscience of this nation with its ancient history and culture and its fair causes. Syria's demands are the same as those of the Arab masses. It wants a just, comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy. It wants a peace that puts an end to fighting and bloodshed. It wants a durable peace that brings to the region security and prosperity. There will be no security and stability in the region unless peace is acceptable to peoples. The peace that peoples can accept must maintain their dignity and interests, and the land is the essence of dignity and interests. Therefore, Syria has accepted the land-for-peace principle.

Israel will be mistaken if it believes that it can attain both land and peace. If Israel, as it claims, wants peace and prosperity for it and the region, then it has to accept objective and historical facts. This acceptance will inevitably lead to accepting the UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy, which guarantee the aspired peace. Israel's rejection of just and comprehensive peace does not reflect strength. Rather, it reflects the Israeli leaders' weakness and inability to face reality and the future. Such peace requires both courage and determination to set matters straight, return rights to their owners, and ensure everyone's security and dignity.

Israel's leaders are well aware that President Hafiz al-Asad was the first to call for the peace of the brave, a peace that must respect the rights of all parties on the basis of justice and international legitimacy without relinquishing any of our rights or an iota of soil. Only a peace of this kind can bring security and stability to the region and its peoples.

Arabs Urged To Confront 'Capitalists,' 'Traitors'

JN0211093795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Holy Places and the Israeli Danger," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: President Hafiz al-Asad has warned of the dark future which is wanted for all Arabs. He also warned against the persistent attempts to cancel the name of Arabs and Arabism, something which constitutes a cancellation of the historical facts and concepts, the pan-Arab identity, and the spiritual identity. This made President al-Asad wonder: When this is canceled, how then would this Arab nation be? Would its entity continue to exist? How would this nation be?

AL-THAWRAH adds: This warning is a continuation of President al-Asad's warning who was the first to sound the alarm when, approximately seven years ago, the wheel of international changes began to move and when the world witnessed huge collapses and a reorganization of orders, relations, pacts, and blocs. Israel benefited the most from this on the regional level.

AL-THAWRAH explains that under the umbrella of peace, Israel has begun to look for new relations and a new regional order through which it can infiltrate into the fabric of the region, and through the new Middle East, it can impose a new order to safeguard Israel's interests, spoliate the Arab region and expertise, and give Israel a central role in leading the region after forfeiting its Arab identity.

It adds: President al-Asad stressed that we, as Arabs, certainly reject Middle Easternism and do not accept it because Arabism is not a merchandise.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH urges the Arabs to confront the capitulationists and traitors, noting that the Arab nation and Syria will not allow them to tamper with or encroach on our holy places.

In its editorial under the headline "The State Terrorism and the State of Terrorism," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Israel has adopted terrorism as a state policy. It carries out state terrorism. It has turned its regular forces, security, and border guards into executioners, murderers, and terrorists.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria realizes that Israel and its rulers do not want a just and comprehensive peace to which Syria adheres, and which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH says that Israel's attempts to drag Syria, through temptation and intimidation, and sometimes through threats, to a humiliating peace which was accepted by those who have relinquished rights, will fail.

AL-BA'TH adds that Syria accepts full peace for full withdrawal, a just and comprehensive peace based on the UN resolutions [break in transmission for a few seconds] Israel Syria's talk about a just and comprehensive peace to speak about war and terrorism. They want to evade peace and move to other subjects because they do not want a true peace but an adulterated and incomplete peace which Syria will never accept no matter how loud the voices of threats and intimidation become, and regardless of accusing others of terrorism in which they were involved in the past, at present and in the future.

Commenting on the aggressive Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon, the newspaper TISHRIN says: All sides inside and outside Israel have realized that the occupation of southern Lebanon is not a picnic, for the Lebanese nationalist resistance inflicts heavy losses on the occupation and agent forces. All the actions of abduction and means of temptation and intimidation did not succeed to curb the resistance operations.

TISHRIN adds: Just like all the occupiers throughout ancient and modern history, Israel forged facts when it accused the nationalist resistance of terrorism. The Nazis accused all the European resistance men of this.

TISHRIN stresses that the occupation of Arab territories is a flagrant aggression, and that those whose land is occupied have the right to resist occupation with all available means.

TISHRIN says that occupation is aggression and a terroristic action, and resistance is self-defense, legitimate, and a national duty, noting that Syria, which supported Lebanon against the partition and Zionization plan and extended all aid to it, will support Lebanon now and in the future and reinforce its policy of reconstruction and restoration of land.

TISHRIN adds: Based on this, Syria has always stressed that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are inseparable and that there will be no peace with Israel at all without its full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Israeli aggressions and threats will only strengthen the determination of both Syria and Lebanon to unify their stand and reinforce the march of cooperation and coordination to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

U.S. Urged To Put Israel on 'Track'

JN0111155895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 1 Nov (SANA) — [passage omitted] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says Israel, which evaded an effective international role through its acceptance of the U.S. initiative, stripped this initiative of its content by rejecting the land-for-peace principle and by looking for ways to perpetuate occupation wholly or partially, under unjustified and flimsy security pretexts, particularly with regard to the early warning stations. These stations are the main obstacle to any progress although they are worthless compared to the aerial alternative, and when compared to peace itself, which constitutes the biggest guarantee for the security, stability, and interests of all.

The paper says: Instead of pressuring or punishing Israel, the U.S. Congress decided to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Moreover, the U.S. military and economic aid extended to Israel constituted the biggest award for its intransigence and exposure of the peace process to danger and collapse.

The paper says that such lenient positions will only encourage Israel to continue its intransigence as well as its rejection of the bases of peace and its defiance of international legitimacy resolutions.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: If the U.S. Administration is to fulfill its obligations and play the role of a full and unbiased partner, placing Israel on the track of accepting the bases and requirements of peace should then be its top priority.

Afghanistan

'Bhutto's Taleban' Said Proof of Interference

LD0111214995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai was interviewed today by a reporter of THE SUNDAY TIMES, which is printed in London.

BAKHTAR reported that, during this interview, the acting prime minister spoke about the government peace programs and talks with opposition groups. In reply to a question, the esteemed acting prime minister said:

The government of Pakistan is openly interfering in Afghan affairs. This intervention, in addition to other dimensions, can easily be noticed in the whole existence of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban.

Ten Said Killed in Kabul by 'Bhutto's Taleban'

LD0111182395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban have martyred 10 citizens of Kabul along the front lines when they were travelling toward the city.

Quoting eyewitnesses, BAKHTAR reported that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban fired on 10 inhabitants of Chahar Asiab and Reshkhor areas, including a number of civil servants and several tradesman when they were travelling toward the city from the other side of the front line. They were all martyred. The Benazir Bhutto's Taleban are stopping people, in particular civil servants, to go to the city. The Taleban group do not allow supplies of firewood, petroleum, or charcoal to reach Kabul. The trucks containing such supplies are being stopped.

Reports reaching here from Mohammad Agha district, Logar Province, say that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban are forcing the inhabitants of Mohammad Agha to supply them with blankets and mattresses or to pay the sum of 200,000 afghanis each family to meet the cost of such items. [Passage indistinct]

Eyewitnesses say: We are witnesses to the Pakistani generals who paid a visit to the Taleban posts some times ago and gave them advice. All the inhabitants of the area know very well who is controlling Taleban.

Sukhoi Aircraft Reportedly Shot Down in Samangan

LD0111164995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Sukhoi plane belonging to Dostam's forces was shot down in Dara-e Suf district in Samangan Province today, and its pilot was taken prisoner. Quoting an armed forces source, BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY told us that the plane, which was trying to bomb the Islamic army's positions in the district, was attacked by an air defense unit and shot down. The name of the pilot who has been taken prisoner by the Islamic army forces is 'Abdol Hafiz.

India

Surgeon Said Abducted To Treat Ailing U.S. Hostage

BK0111153695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 1 (AFP) — Suspected Muslim rebels have kidnapped a surgeon to treat an ailing American hostage seized in July along with three other Western tourists in Kashmir, a top official said here Wednesday [1 November].

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said suspected members of the Al-Faran rebel group abducted a general surgeon on Saturday from Larkipura, some 90 kilometres (56 miles) south of this state summer capital.

"The surgeon has not returned," he said. "We suspect he was kidnapped to treat Donald Hutchings, who we fear may be suffering from gangrene," he said, adding that the hostages had been spotted recently.

"They wore Kashmiri clothes and looked weak," he said, but did not give further details.

Hutchings, 42, is said to have developed an infection after suffering from frostbite.

Hutchings, Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were seized by the Al-Faran between July 4 and 8 near the Kashmir hill resort of Pahalgam.

A fifth hostage, 27-year-old Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was beheaded by the militants in August.

The hostage crisis entered its 120th day Wednesday, making it the longest period that foreigners were held in captivity by Muslim rebels in Kashmir. A former Indian legislator was held by militants for 364 days and released last year.

Indian authorities have rejected demands by the previously- unknown Al-Faran to free 15 jailed militants in exchange for the hostages and has also ruled out military operations to rescue them.

New Delhi believes the Al-Faran is a front for the Harkat-ul- Ansar guerrilla outfit, comprising mainly

Afghans, which kidnapped two British trekkers last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 when separatists stepped up a bloody campaign for secession.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting insurgency in the disputed state—the cause of two wars between the neighbours. Islamabad denies the charge but says its extends moral and diplomatic support to a legitimate expression for self-rule.

U.S. 'Insensitivity' Said Paving Way for Arms Race

BK2710033395 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 26 Oct 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Boost to Pakistan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The faint hope in India after the earlier passage of the Hank Brown amendment by the US Senate that a more detailed consideration of the issue will induce rethinking in Washington has been belied by Wednesday's unfortunate development. The approval of the amendment by a committee of both the House of Representatives and the senate carries the disturbing message that its passage by both houses of the US Congress is now only a matter of formality. Clearly, this event marks a serious setback for Indian diplomacy, for it indicates a failure to convey our deep and legitimate concern at the resumption of the old American policy of arming Pakistan. India has historical reasons to be worried about this largesse, for our past experience of at least two wars in 1965 and 1971 with Pakistan has shown that whatever the reason advanced by Islamabad to acquire arms — whether to fight international communism as America's ally as in the past or to battle Islamic fundamentalism as now — its sole objective has been to train its guns against India. It is unlikely that there will be any exception this time, especially when Pakistan is engaged in a proxy war in Kashmir via the terrorists sponsored by it.

Although the Brown amendment supposedly represents a one-time waiver of the Pressler directive, Pakistan will be delighted by this tacit acceptance by the US of its nuclear status. Moreover, its return to the earlier position of being Washington's front-line state in this region means that, as before, the American policy makers will not hesitate to turn a blind eye to Pakistan's nuclear programme as long as it promises to serve Washington's geo-strategic objectives in West and Central Asia. Most self-respecting countries would consider this to be a demeaning position, but riot Pakistan which has always used it as a means to counter India. The arms supply also denotes a remarkable turnaround in US policy from the period not long ago when Pakistan was about to be called a terrorist state. While it is obviously a matter between Washington and Islamabad to strengthen their patron-client relationship, New Delhi will have to buttress the country's defences by stepping up the production and deployment of Agni and Prithvi. Although such a step will mean the diversion of scarce resources to defence, there is clearly no alternative since American insensitivity to South Asian security has paved the way for another arms race.

Article Views Response to U.S. Pakistan Interests

BK0111020295 Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Oct 95 p 13

[Article by C. Raja Mohan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Having failed to persuade the Clinton administration not to resume arms sales to Pakistan, India may now have to face renewed pressure from Washington on its nuclear and missile programmes. If strengthening its strategic autonomy is the primary course for India now, the U.S. is likely to step up its diplomatic activism to constrain New Delhi's missile and nuclear options.

As India considers the consequences of the final passage of the Brown Amendment in the U.S. Congress. Its response cannot be limited to specific military purchases or an effort to match the arms acquisitions of Islamabad one-to-one. India will have to look at the larger significance of the changing U.S. relations with Pakistan and its implications for India's neighbour hood.

One, the Brown Amendment signifies the beginning of a new strategic partnership between Washington and Islamabad. The Clinton administration has now declared Pakistan a front line state in the containment of Iran and other radical Islamic forces. The Clinton administration also sees Pakistan as a useful instrument in establishing a pliable regime in Afghanistan area securing the American oil and other geo-political interests in Central Asia.

Two, having obtained the American blessing for a larger regional role Islamabad now gains strategic leverages throughout the Gulf, Central Asia and the Islamic world in general. An early success in installing the Taleban in power in Kabul will boost Islamabad's standing in the region.

Three, the revival of the U.S.-Pakistan strategic consensus lends solidity to Islamabad's foreign policy that it had lacked over the last live years, when relations with Washington were under strain. Pakistan's relations with China have always been strong and are likely to remain so. The willingness of Pakistan to serve as a front line state to the U.S. may create some friction with Iran, but Islamabad may be prepared to take that risk.

Four, as Pakistan's foreign policy acquires a new punch in the wake of the Brown Amendment, the uncertainties facing India are likely to remain acute. The Indian expectations of a steadily deepening strategic understanding with the U.S. have taken a beating. While the economic interaction between India and the U.S. will continue to grow, it will lack the critical mass to significantly limit the negative impact of the re-emerging U.S.- Pakistan strategic consensus. The steady improvement of Sino-Indian relations is unlikely to weaken the long-standing military cooperation between Islamabad an Beijing. The revival of Indo- Russian cooperation is clouded by the many uncertainties in Moscow.

For India the changing strategic scenario leaves no alternative but self-help. The emphasis on building its own military strength involves; number of steps. These include reversing the current trend towards declining defence expenditures undertaking fundamental reforms in defence organisation to achieve a better bang for the buck significantly stepping up expenditure on defence research and development and giving a greater strategic coherence to India's nuclear and missile programmes.

Two immediate steps that will demonstrate India's resolve to defend its interests are the deployment of the short-range Prithvi missile and the resumption of the testing of the medium range Agni missile. The Indian Government car no longer fudge on these issues and it will be under test in the coming weeks and month whether it can resist the American pressures to limit its strategic options.

The Clinton administration has finally got the long-sought flexibility from the U.S. Congress in dealing with nuclear and missile issue in the subcontinent. The U.S. Congress has diluted the nuclear sanctions against Pakistan and may have restored American political credibility in Islamabad. Congress has also given some diplomatic room for the Administration on the Chinese transfer of M-11 missiles to Pakistan. Under a new congressional law the Administration now has six months to impose sanctions against China and Pakistan even after it determines that such a transfer has taken place. (The earlier law demanded immediate mandatory trade sanctions upon such a determination which the Administration was reluctant to make.)

The passage of the Brown Amendment should not be seen as the end of American non-proliferation diplomacy in South Asia. On the other hand it may reinvigorate the Clinton administration's activism on the issue. It could be expected to press once again for a freezing of the nuclear and missile programmes in India and Pakistan and seek a regional negotiating forum for the discussion of non-proliferation and conflict resolution in the subcontinent. India has rejected most of these proposals in the past while Pakistan has backed them.

Besides wielding the stick the Clinton administration may also offer the carrot to India to rethink its current posture against the proposed capping of its nuclear and missile programmes. The U.S. could offer some goodies—in the form of access to advanced technology—to induce India to comply with its non-proliferation demands. New Delhi will be well-advised to look this gift horse in the mouth.

Committee Said Established To Study Enron Project

BK3110143295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Maharashtra Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Joshi today announced the formation of a three-member expert committee to examine the revival of the agreement on the Enron power project. Dr. Kirith Parekh, director of the Indira Institute of Development and Research, Mr. Tata Rao, former chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board, and Mr. S.D.S. Raghavan, former chairman of Bharat Heavy Electricals, are the members of the committee. The state energy secretary, Mr. Asoke Basak, will be the convener. The committee has been asked to submit its report at the earliest.

Article Considers Border Dispute With China

BK3110121495 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 95 p 13

[Article by K.K. Nanda: "No Role for the World Court"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sino-Indian border dispute is no doubt very complex but it must be seen in the right perspective if India wants to make progress in normalising its relations with China. It is pointless to harp on the past. The "past" must be left behind and the problems should be viewed afresh without any previous prejudices or pre-conceived ideas.

Put simply, the Sino-Indian border issue really amounts to: (a) China is willing to accept the McMahon Line as the international border in Arunachal Pradesh (North East) as India claims, With some minor modifications. (b) She is also willing to accept its boundaries with Bhutan, Nepal, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, as claimed by India and the other countries, with perhaps some variations. (c) In Ladakh, however, China will only accept the existing Line of Actual Control, minor adjustments notwithstanding, as the international border. This is because China has a strategic road running through the Aksai Chin area of Ladakh, which connects its Sinkianv Province with Tibet and is of vital importance to her. She had completed the construction of this road in 1956 and India knew nothing about it. But later when she came to know of it, she lodged a mild protest, more for record!

It is well known that China claims certain areas held by India in the North-East but India disputes it. On the other hand China disputes the Indian claims in areas like Aksai Chin in the Northwest. It is also a fact that Sino-Indian border has never been demarcated and there are claims and counter claims from both sides. duly backed by arguments customs and traditions and the past practices. Under these circumstances if the matter is taken to the World Court it will go on for years, before a decision emerges, If at all. But the biggest casualty of this would be India's stand on 'bilateralism'. If it is the right course for settling the Sino- Indian border dispute, why should not the same be applied to the Kashmir issue? The World Court would then be able to arbitrate between India and Pakistan, decide the issue for them and delineate their new boundaries in Kashmir which would subsequently be converted into the international border. India is committed not to accept any arbitration by a third party on Kashmir and will certainly reject this course. If the World Court cannot be accepted as an answer to the Kashmir issue it can also not be brought in to solve the Sino-Indian border.

It must also be understood that when the British decided on the McMahon Line as the border between India and Tibet, it was based on their observations of hill ranges and other features as seen from a fairly long distance and from relatively lower hills or valleys and not by any physical survey. The false spurs, which existed between the observed range of hills and the demarcated line, were not visible and later became the cause of dispute in the interpretation of the McMahon Line. Moreover the line was drawn on a quarter inch map and its thickness on the map itself represented a couple of hundred yards which could be claimed by both sides on a physical survey. When the relations are hostile or even indifferent such claims can lead to serious disputes and that is what has been happening in the eighties. If the relations are cordial the different interpretations of the borders can easily be decided by both sides through give and take.

Since the signing of the Sino-Indian Agreement on the "Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the line of control" the atmosphere has changed. The meetings of the India-China Joint Working Group are cordial and the disputes have started getting sorted out. The Chinese are hard bargainers but India is no less and can match them in this respect. The disputes will keep coming up during these 'confidence building' meetings and these must be sorted out on the negotiating table with patience. In the meantime status quo must be maintained. There is no need for throwing the "past" at each other's face.

If at the last meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group, both sides decided to withdraw two posts each from the Wangdung area it should be accepted as a "triumph for peace and tranquillity on the border" as rightly claimed by the Spokesman of the Government of India. If it does not lead to the vacation of the Chinese intrusion in Wangdung at this stage, let that be. It can be taken up again in the next meeting and meetings thereafter till resolved. After all the Chinese troops have been there for many years and the Indian Army has been able to do precious little to have it vacated. If the military option is not there, why bellyache! Let the present line of action go on and it will ensure that the problems between the two countries will get sorted out sooner than later.

Economic and cultural factors are now taking precedence over military means in the New World Order. The cultural exchanges will ensure better understanding and will bring the people of India and China closer. The development of trade will bridge the gap further resulting in a welcome commitment of the two Governments to each other. Trade will also bring in more prosperity and economic well being to both sides. India can ill-afford to miss the opportunity of exploiting the huge Chinese market for consumer goods.

India and China have advanced technologies in certain fields which they can exchange and use for the betterment of their respective peoples. They can also have a cartel to coordinate their respective exports of common items like tea and textiles etc. for the benefit of both. It will usher in an era of prosperity in the region in general and in the two countries in particular.

The enlarged economic activities and cultural exchanges will indeed help in "getting the vexed question of the boundary out of the way", thus achieving a "mutual sense of security". If India keeps waiting for the boundary question to be settled before starting other activities, she will miss the economic boat as well. That should not be allowed to happen.

Mauritian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives for Visit

BK2710142295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Mauritian prime minister, Dr. Anerood Jugnauth, who arrived in New Delhi today was given a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this afternoon. He inspected a guard of honor and took salute. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and his cabinet colleagues were present. Dr. Jugnauth, who is on a six-day visit, will call on the president and the vice president and will hold talks with the prime minister. He is scheduled to address a meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry today.

Backs Nuclear Stand, Invites Investment

BK2810101495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Mauritius are to give a boost to bilateral trade ties. Official talks between the Mauritius prime minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, slated for this evening, are to focus on strengthening economic relations. A Mauritius business delegation is already in the capital interacting with the Indian business circles to explore new areas for cooperation.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi last night, Dr. Jugnauth called upon Indian industrialists to invest in his country in the areas of information technology, agriculture, tourism and related sectors. He said trade between the two countries has grown significantly with New Delhi becoming the fourth largest supplier of goods to Mauritius last year. He said over the years, Indian-manufactured items, machinery and light engineering products have also increased their share in his country's market.

Mauritius has supported India's stand for total elimination of nuclear weapons and New Delhi's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. The Mauritian prime minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, told newsmen in New Delhi today that there cannot be discrimination between nuclear states and nonnuclear states in an initiative to attain disarmament. Replying to a question, Sir Anerood said India has been playing an effective role in global politics and being a large democratic country, it deserves a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

The visiting prime minister said that Mauritius is keen on attracting more Indian tourists to earn foreign exchange for partially offsetting the balance of trade between the two countries. He said his country is also keen on India's permission for extending its flights between Port Louis and Bombay to New Delhi and Madras.

Agrees To Improve Bilateral Trade

BK2910085695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Mauritius will strive for improving bilateral trade relations. This was decided at a meeting between the visiting Mauritian prime minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi last evening. They also agreed on the urgent need for improving air services and telecommunication links between the two countries, and cooperation in technology development and transfer of Indian technology. Matters regarding double taxation and Indian investment in Mauritius also figured during the discussions.

Later, Mr. Narasimha Rao hosted a banquet in honor of the Mauritian prime minister. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rao said the problems of international terrorism, drug trafficking, and ethnic rivalries which continue to plague various parts of the world need to be addressed and resolved by cooperation among right thinking nations and people. Mr. Rao hoped that the setting up of the Indian Ocean Rim Association would lead to timely and much needed cooperation among the countries of the region.

Mr. Anerood is leaving New Delhi for Udayapur this morning on his way back home.

Commentary Views Growing Ties

BK2910101295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Commentary by Harisharan Chabra]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Of all the countries of the African continent, it can be said without any fear of contradiction that India's relations with the tiny island nation, Mauritius, are the most cordial. This can be explained by the simple fact that a majority of the 1.3 million population of Mauritius is of Indian origin. Indians have migrated in the last century to welcome the sugar plantations in Mauritius. Since its independence from Britain in 1968, India has tried hard to assist Mauritius in strengthening its hard-won independence through various programs and economic cooperation which are by now so well known in the African continent — balanced trade, technical assistance, consultancy services, and joint ventures. In doing so, Mauritius watchers have noted that there had been a great deal of exchanges of visits of the top leaders of the two countries. Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius is an old friend of India having visited the country on several occasions since he came to power in 1982. His present visit to the country has brought in the warmest welcome as was the case in the past. There is no gain saying the fact that India and Mauritius are at the same political wave length on matters concerning the developing world. Our two countries are strongly in favor of South- South cooperation and collective self-reliance.

During Prime Minister Jugnauth's current five-day visit to India, the two countries have agreed to expand their bilateral cooperation substantially. It is pertinent to note that the two sides have expressed satisfaction over the marked improvement in setting up joint ventures and strongly feel that the bilateral trade can be stepped up in a big way. According to Mr. Jugnauth, India remains a top priority country for investment and for setting up of joint ventures. Two more points concerning India and Mauritius need to be noted. First, the leaders of both sides have supported the call for the democratization and expansion of the UN Security Council. In this connection, Mauritius supports India's claim for permanent membership of the council. And, secondly, but more importantly, India is greatly appreciative of Mauritius taking various steps in the formation of the Indian Ocean rim initiative which is bound to become an economic bridge head between Africa, Asia, and Australia. It is great to see that the Mauritian initiative will focus on economic areas which provide ample opportunities to develop shared interests and mutual benefits among the countries washed by the waters of the Indian Ocean.

Minister Rules Out Further Fall in Rupee Value

BK2910093795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commerce minister has asked importers not to rush to make imports in anticipation of a further fall in the value of the rupee against the dollar. Mr. Chidambaram said he is convinced of the soundness of the fundamentals of the Indian economy and there is no justification for any expectation that the rupee will decline further. He also urged exporters not to hold back their export earnings in the hope of earning more for their foreign exchange.

Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr. Chidambaram pointed out that the rupee was due for a correction to compensate for the inflation in the last two years. He said that anything above 34.50 rupees for a dollar is an over correction. This view, he said is shared by policy makers in the government. Mr. Chidambaram said that he has every reason to believe that the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] will intervene strongly if speculative activities continue to push the value of the rupee down. He assured both exporters and importers that the government has enough foreign exchange to take care of all needs.

Meanwhile, figures released by the Commerce Ministry today show that the growth of imports is moderating leading to a narrowing of the trade deficit in the first six months of this year. Imports have slowed down since there has been a decline in the import of petroleum, fertilizer, and newsprint which constitute a major portion. However, the import of edible oil has nearly doubled in the last six months.

Iran

U.S. Military 'Violations' in Gulf Reported to UN

LD3110224195 Tehran IRNA in English 2153 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Hq. (New York), Oct. 31, IRNA — A letter addressed to Un Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali by Iran's permanent representative to the world body, Kamal Kharrazi, listed the violations of the U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf region against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The letter dated October 25 was circulated as a document of the Security Council on Tuesday.

According to the letter on 16 May, the U.S. Warship DD978, the Obannon, stopped the Iranian barge Abolhassani, en route from Kuwait to Abadan and contrary to international laws carried a thorough inspection of the barge's contents. The personnel of the U.S. warship gathered all the personnel of the Iranian barge and questioned them.

On 16 June 1995, the same barge, returning from Kuwait to Abadan, was spotted and stopped by two U.S. helicopters. All of the documents of the barge were completely searched and even the personal belongings of the barge's personnel were scattered around. As a further act of provocation, U.S. personnel filmed the entire event from the time they entered the barge until they left it.

On July 5 at 1210 hours, a U.S. aircraft, flying at a speed of 300 miles per hour and at an altitude of 18,000 feet, intercepted an Iranian aircraft from the position of N2835 and E5045.

The letter said Islamic Republic of Iran strongly protests against these illegal activities by the governemnt of the United States and calls for an end to such violations.

Bosnian Peace Process Said 'Hijacked' by U.S.

*LD0211111995 Tehran IRNA in English
0916 GMT 2 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA — Muslim states supporting Bosnia, led by the Islamic Republic of Iran, demanded that either the arms embargo should be respected by all, or the Bosnian Muslims should be allowed to replenish their supplies too, wrote a morning daily Thursday [2 November].

The combined efforts of the U.S. and Western Europe as well as measures taken by the organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) were frustrated and just about exhausted, the English-language IRAN NEWS said in its editorial.

"Now, Washington has hijacked the Bosnian peace process and is hosting a new round of negotiations with the participation of the parties involved in this European crisis," it stated.

"During the last four years, we have witnessed unprecedented crimes committed by the nefarious Serbs against Muslim Bosnians," it said adding, in Bosnia, several cease-fires were declared only to be broken by the Serbs.

The United Nations, the Western Contact Group, the U.S. unilateral efforts and above all OIC's sincere moves failed to silence the Serb guns in former Yugoslavia, said the daily.

Referring to various reasons leading to failure of all the efforts made by different countries and organizations to settle peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the article said that as far as the OIC is concerned, the organization was faced with the problem of lack of proximity.

It reiterated that Bosnia is far away from any of the Muslim countries making it difficult for the OIC and its members to implement real and meaningful measures.

"Europe, the U.N. and the United States tried their best to frustrate OIC efforts," it underlined adding, the Muslim countries, having proven that the government in Belgrade was a partner in Serbs crimes, should be allowed to play their long-awaited role in the Bosnian peace process.

Commenting on the negotiations in Dayton, Ohio, in the United States, the daily stressed, "through hosting the peace process on Bosnia, the U.S. is trying to say that Europe is still immature and unable to solve its own problem."

It concluded by welcoming any effort towards peace with the sole condition that it be genuine and take into consideration proper punishment for the barbaric actions of war criminals such as Radovan Karadzic.

Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia Peace Talks

*LD0211114595 Tehran IRNA in English
1115 GMT 2 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued here Thursday [2 November], deplored the continuation of injustice done to the oppressed nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After three and a half years of war and savage massacre of innocent people in the Republic of Bosnia, the peace negotiations aimed at settling the crisis in Bosnia is held at the time when international society particularly influential powers have paved the way for continuation of aggression and massacre of people through their time killing tactic, procrastination and failure to decisively confront the aggressors, the statement added.

Since the very beginning of the Bosnian conflict, the Islamic Republic of Iran has called for decisive confrontation with the aggressors and support for the Bosnian Republic as a member of the international community, it underlined.

But, the statement regretted, the big powers' bias and the failure of the international community particularly the United Nations to perform their duties on time have resulted in the continuation and expansion of conflict, heavy losses and continued massacre of the innocent nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On the threshold of the peace negotiations to be held in the United States, the Islamic Republic proposes that the peace talks process and any solution to the crisis should guarantee the territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia, the statement stated.

It has warned that any adopting double standard policy for settlement of the crisis and exerting pressures on the Bosnian Government to deviate from its legitimate rights will endanger the future of peace and stability in Balkan region.

Amman Summit Said for U.S. Mideast Exploitation

*LD3110094995 Tehran IRNA in English
0745 GMT 31 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA — A morning daily here today strongly denounced the holding of the Amman economic conference and described it as a lever in the hands of the U.S. and Israel to exploit Middle Eastern resources.

The English language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote in its Tuesday [31 October] editorial, "the Middle East economic summit, a continuation of last year's

Casablanca economic gathering, was opened by King Husayn in Amman on Saturday."

It added, "more than 1,000 officials and business leaders from 60 countries are attending the summit. The main contenders in the bid to control the markets of oil-rich Middle Eastern countries, Israel and the United States, are as usual the main players."

It went on by saying, "the United States and its satellite Israel have been pushing hard to create a Cairo-based development bank which, in practice, will duplicate other institutions such as the World Bank. However, the new bank will most probably function under the tutelage of the United States and its lackey, Israel."

The project is reminiscent of the U.S.-sponsored Marshall plan and other financial institutions which were vested with the role of controlling the jugular vein of developing countries in the postwar world, the daily pointed out.

It also said, "by invading Iraq, the United States manifested its desire to forever seek the free flow of Middle East oil to the developed world. This time it wants to control its markets. Of course Israel will be the willing U.S. proxy in achieving this goal."

The paper noted that, "history is replete with instances of Israeli or U.S. betrayal. It is senseless for Middle Eastern countries to count on them even as business friends. These sworn enemies of Muslims will never work for the interest of Muslims."

"The final document of the summit will be another instance of betrayal and they should beware of its contents before affixing their signatures. Regional cooperation, sans Israel, is no doubt the best alternative to neocolonialization at work in such summits," the editorial concluded.

Al-Shaqaqi Death Said To Cause New Intifidah 'Wave'

LD0111174595 Tehran IRNA in English
1708 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 1, IRNA — Vice-Speaker of Majles Hassan Rowhani here Wednesday [1 November] said that martyrdom of Secretary General of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, will lead to a new wave of Intifadah.

Rowhani, speaking in the open session of Majles, added that soon the Zionists will have to stop celebrating such terrorist acts because the Palestinian nation will take revenge.

He called on the Iranian Muslim nation to take part at the memorials for the late al-Shaqaqi, scheduled for this afternoon.

Turning to American sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said such moves stemmed from false interpretation and wrong analysis of American statesmen. The recent rejection of a bill by the U.S. Senate on increasing the scope of the economic sanctions against Iran is a proof of this wrong analysis.

He added that Iran's oil sale this year, exeeding the target, proved uselessness of the American sanctions against Iran.

"Majority of the world countries have acknowledged the defeat of the U.S. sanctions against Iran," he told the deputies.

According to Rowhani, increased conspiracies by the White House against Tehran speaks of the anxiety of the U.S. over the numerous success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fields of politics and economy, both inside and outside the country.

Rowhani added that the seizure of the den of espionage by the students following the line of the late imam Khomeyni was a 'revolution.'

He invited all Iranian students to actively take part at ceremonies marking the take over anniversary on November 4.

Armed Forces Condemn Assassination of al-Shaqaqi

LD0111182695 Tehran IRNA in English
1432 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA — Headquarters of the Iranian Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a statement on Tuesday [31 October] night condemned the Zionist regime's criminal act of assassinating secretary general of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Martyrdom of al-Shaqaqi by the criminal Zionists gave new momentum to the struggle of the Palestinian nation and freedom fighters, added the statement.

The statement also referred to the baseless propaganda of the global arrogance, the criminal U.S. in particular, on their so- called support for the human rights.

The statement also offered condolences to the 12th Imam of the household of Prophet Mohamad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamaneii and Muslim nations all over the world, particularly the brave peoples of Palestine and Iran.

Many govenmental and revolutionary organizations of Iran in the past few days in statements have condemned the Zionist regime for its terrorist act.

Al-Shaqaqi Death, U.S. Embassy Move Condemned

LD0111215095 Tehran IRNA in English
2136 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Prov., Nov 1, IRNA — Leader of the Islamic revolution's representative to East Azarbaijan Hojjat ol-Eslam Mojtahed Shabestari in a statement issued here Wednesday [1 November] condemned [the] martyrdom of Secretary General of Islamic Movement of Palestine Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi by criminal Israel.

The statement read that transfer of US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Qods by US Congress and martyrdom of al-Shaqaqi by Zionist usurpers were among crimes committed against the world.

Shebestari expressed hope that martyrdom of such a devoted personality would bring further move among brave Muslims in beefing up their resistance.

Meanwhile, planning council of Khorasan seminary managerial board in a statement issued in northeastern Khorasan Province on Wednesday condemned the move by the Zionist regime of Israel. The statement said that occupying regime of Qods should know that such phenomena would make Palestinian people more resolute in annihilating the sinister regime.

In related news from Birjand (Khorasan) in a ceremony held in a local mosque the people condemned assassination of al-Shaqaqi by zionists.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Delivers Speech to Students

LD0111181295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1100 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to a large group of students in Tehran on 1 November, the eve of the Tehran hostage-taking anniversary — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [chants of slogans welcoming Khamene'i including: "God is protecting us," "Khamene'i is our leader"; vehement chants of "Death to America," three times; "Death to Israel"; "Our slogan is Husayn, Husayn," "Our source of pride is martyrdom"; "What is the United States thinking confronting a Basiji like Khamene'i?"] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I welcome you dear brothers and sisters, students, Education Ministry staff. God be praised, you form a prominent and outstanding strata of our society. [passage omitted]

The main topic of my speech today is about maintaining the spirit of standing against and fighting the enemy. That is very important, my dear ones. A number of people thought that in a world where the system of hegemony rules — I will, of course, explain what a frightening reality the system of hegemony is — there can be a regime based on wisdom, spirituality, independence, relying on one's own human and financial resources, disregarding foreign interference, which could exist without any difficulties. That is wrong; it cannot be.

The system of hegemony means that countries and nations and governments in the world should either be hegemonic or yield to hegemony. [passage omitted]

The system of hegemony means that — as the United States is the symbol of hegemony — any supremacy that transpires as a result of a world based on the system of hegemony is partly the United States' fault. [crowd chants: "Death to America" a few times] The system of hegemony means that if the U.S. regime decides to stake its claim anywhere in the world — whether it is legitimate, illegitimate, or contrary to all international conventions; it makes no difference — it has the right to have a strong military presence there, and crush anyone opposing its interests. Sometimes it does it covertly, and sometimes openly, and states clearly that such and such organization, government, society, or movement has opposed our interests. That gives the United States the right to crush that organization, person, government, or nation, whoever they are; that is the system of hegemony. It means the law of the jungle. It means an inhuman system. It means contrary to human nature.

Only those who accept hegemony will be approved by hegemonists. If a government puts at the disposal of a hegemonist all the oil, resources, security, economy, foreign relations, and various policies of its country; and if it asks for the hegemonist's opinion and listens to what the hegemonist says, then this will be very good. It does not matter if the government is an oppressive one; or it is a just government; whether it respects human rights or not; whether there is democracy in its country or not; whether its nation has heard of something called a parliament or not; none of these will matter.

If you look in the Middle Eastern region, you can see governments that are accepted and approved by the U.S. hegemonists. In terms of their ideology, political development, from the viewpoint of human rights record, democracy, what type of government are they? Do they understand the meaning of democracy? Do their people understand what an election is? Can anybody assume that there is room to breath in those countries? Not at all. It does not make any difference to officials of an hegemonic country, such as the United States. The important thing for it is that those countries submit to it. That is sufficient.

If a country, a community, an organization from any nation, with any characteristics, does not yield to them, then they deserve to be attacked and harmed no matter where in the world they are. You can see this if you look at conflicts, friendships and enmities, and again look at the confrontation against the regime of the Islamic Republic. In such a case any crime will be permissible against anyone who defends his homeland, his country, and struggles against the Zionist occupiers, which is a natural right of any individual. It has been accepted that there are governments in the world that are oppressive and cruel, and some of their people stand against them. The world does not regard those combatants as terrorists.

There are people who are struggling, truly, against the usurper, oppressive, occupier, and harsh Zionist regime. That devoted young man [al-Shaqaqi], who was martyred by the criminal Zionists and their lackeys, was one of them, and so were his organization and his society. Their crime was their struggle against a regime that has usurped their homeland. Of course, he was guilty of another great crime that might have been greater then that struggle, and that was the fact that he was devoted to Islam, and talked about following the Imam [Khomeyni], and was clearly proud of the fact that he was a follower of our great Imam. This was a very great offense.

That is why the Zionist mercenaries murdered him. This is not all that unnatural. It is obvious that a regime such as the terrorist regime of Israel will kill its enemies if it can find an opportunity. Others people will also murder them. That is not all that unexpected either. We expect nothing else from Israel. They are terrorists. What is important is the fact that no individual in the Western world has condemned this terrorist act. That is the system of hegemonism. It is that ugly face that has filled the world today, and man has the right to clench his fist and scream at the hegemonic regime anywhere in the world. This is a very sad thing.

Among journalists, human rights organizations, political statesmen from whose tongues the words: Terrorist, terrorism, supporting terrorism — roll off so loosely, the U.S. President has gone and stood in front of the representatives of all the world's nations and states and has, utterly shamelessly, accused the Islamic Republic of being a government that nurtures terrorists. This is the extent to which they lack piety and are careless in their accusations. They neither produce any evidence nor pay attention to the facts; they just say something for the sake of keeping the Zionists, capitalists, and others happy. They say these things about terrorism and human rights in this manner, anywhere they can, whether that occasion is appropriate or not, whether what they are saying is the truth or a lie. Yet they do not condemn the most blatant terrorist crime; they pretend it has not happened. This is what a hegemonic system is, and it is such a very ugly and detestable thing that if anyone ignores its existence they should count themselves as being very ignorant.

The Islamic Republic's system is standing against this hegemonic system. In essence, the task of the Islamic Republic is to administer the nation and the country of Iran on the basis of the divine values and concepts taught by Islam. The assumption is that these values can bring prosperity to a society — and this is definitely the case — Islam will make society prosper. The basis of prosperity in a society is that which society is capable of living, thinking, choosing, reconstructing independently, following its own path, and choosing its objectives independently. Thus, independence is at the basis of this important Islamic movement.

So, can a country that bases itself on independence and non- surrender to hegemonic systems, survive without resistance, without struggle and hard work? How ignorant are those who imagine that, since the Islamic Republic's system is undergoing a period of reconstruction, then there is no struggle against anyone or any power in the world — and that it is enough to drop one's head and preoccupy oneself with reconstruction. Do you think that the enemy allows you to reconstruct? Do you think the enemy allows you to follow and advance along the path of this nation's prosperity? Can the hegemonic enemy tolerate an independent nation that will not allow the hegemonists to interfere in its affairs? They cannot tolerate it so they create disputes; they attack; they hatch plots — cultural plots; economic plots; security plots that are today being hatched with intensity; and military plots — they will carry out their military plots too if they deem it necessary or if it is expedient.

When a country has an objective, a path, and is determined to follow that path by not surrendering to the enemy and by ignoring the enemy's illegitimate demands and greed — when faced by such an enemy, this nation has no choice but to defend itself. You have no choice but to defend yourself. [crowd chants: "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to the opponents of the supreme leader," "Death to America," "Death to Zionism," "Death to the Hypocrites and Saddam," "Death to Israel"]

This spirit of struggle and resistance against the enemies will remain healthy and intact among the youth only when their lives are ruled by piety and attention to God, which can rightly be called the Great Jihad. [passage omitted]

Students at universities, seminaries, and high schools must be vigilant and alert. This is expected from all of you today, since you make up the elite generation of this country. You must identify the enemy. This is the first step.

I have had a long-standing affinity toward universities and university students, with whom I have had many dealings in the past. Therefore, I have many things to say to them. After all, It is our duty to admonish, and I particularly feel obliged to offer advice and admonition.

One of the things that the enemy pursues at present, in particular within the arena of our universities, is waging an onslaught against the cleric system [Nezam-e Rowhaniyyat] in our country. You must always bear that it mind.

This is not only today. From the day when the Pahlavi dynasty came to power, enemies realized that, if they wished to conquer this country once and for all, there should not be anything by the name of religion or religious faith in this country. In order that religious faith should not exist in a structured form, the clergy must be put out of business. That is what they believed.

As long as the clergy exists, there is a central organization, which is recognized by people as speaking in the name of religion. Religion cannot be purged from the lives, hearts, and minds of the people. I am speaking about an organization that is not dependent on any of the organs of power, financially or otherwise.

The clergy of our Sunni brothers — the clergy exists in other Islamic countries, but it relies for a living on [government] organs. It is obvious that it cannot oppose those organs. The Christian clergy is similar to this. The special characteristic of the Shi'ah clergy is that it does not rely on the ruling machinery for money, for a living. Therefore, they are free to speak.

See for yourself, since a 100 years ago until today, whatever reformist movement, whatever social or political struggle, whatever major developments have taken place in Iran have been led entirely by the clergy or partly by the clergy. That is our history for all to see. However much the enemies of the clergy have tried throughout the past 50 to 60 years, they have been unable to deny this, because it is in our history. [passage omitted]

At the head of the clergy are people who, from the viewpoint of theology, that is, the science of [religious] jurisprudence — I have already spoken about this before: Jurisprudence [Feqahat] is a methodology, it is a manner of interpretation [estenbat], it is a science, it must be learned. Everyone is free to learn this science, to interpret religion. However, interpreting religion is based on a methodology. It is based on a scientific method. It is not something that can be carried out by anyone, by any non-specialist. It is not as if anyone can come from anywhere and start interpreting the Koran and the Sunnah [words and deeds attributed to the Prophet]. This jurisprudence is the main science of the clergy. Of course, there is also Islamic philosophy, Islamic mysticism. These are also parts of jurisprudence in its broad sense. If the methodology of jurisprudence is removed from the midst of all this, then there will be nothing left of religion. Some people may come from one side and interpret religion on the basis of Marxism. Have we not already seen this in Iran? They created a religion — the book written by that hypocrite group, which was Islamic in appearance and Marxist in fact — that is why they are hypocrites [reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] — when you placed their book side by side with the ideological and theoretical books of the Tudeh Party and communist groups, they were identical; in economics, in history — the same interpretation of history, the same socialist economics, everything the same. The only difference was that these ones had stuck the names of God and the Prophet on it and the others had not. That is how it will be.

If religion does not have an official interpreter, does not have an official custodian and guardian, this is what things come to: Some people bring religion into line with Marxist thinking and some people bring it into line with Western democratic ideas, Western capitalism. There are people in the world today who interpret religion, Islam that is, not all religion, exactly in a way that suits big companies and firms. This is what things will come to. [passage omitted]

It makes me very sad when I see people, who according to our own assessments and according to the information available to us, have no ulterior motives such as the ones harbored by the Pahlavi regime — who seem to be one of us, one of us Muslims — when I see these people saying exactly the things that used to be said by the regime of Reza Khan and Mohammad Reza, who wished to spin a variety of plots and ploys — why should this be happening?

The clergy is a major institution in the Islamic system. Were it not for the clergy, were it not for these turbaned seminary students, were it not for the struggles conducted by these seminarians throughout those 16 years of struggle throughout the country — the struggle from 1963-1979 — when the seminarians used to go to every village and town in the country, to every region, even to military garrisons, publicizing the struggle — and that system could not stop them. What could they do to a seminarian? [passage omitted]

Today, if someone confronts the clergy, he gladdens the Zionists and the Americans more than anything else. You can see for yourself how, if a voice is raised anywhere [in Iran], applause and chants of approval rises from all the Zionist media. Why? Because they have set their heart on the destruction of the clergy. They want the clergy to cease to exist. Well, this is sedition [fetneh]. This kind of talk, understanding truths in such a distorted way and publishing them in this way — this is sedition. I must give advice to those people who do not understand, do not realize — that is, I do not have the heart to and cannot believe that they are doing these things deliberately. I do not want to accept such a thing. Otherwise, if it comes to light that, God forbid, these things have been done with ulterior motives, with ill intent, let this be known: The Islamic system will slap these people hard in the face. [extensive chants of support from the crowd: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to the hypocrites and Saddam," "Death to those opposed to the Velayat-e Faqih — rule of the jurisconsult," "This nation will slap the face of the enemy of the clergy"]

The clergy is the servant of the people. It is a modest institution, undemanding, asking for little from the world. It wants none of the material things of the world. Of course, there are bad people among the clergy, treacherous people, in the past and in the present. I am not saying that there are no such people. We have information about the presence of some unsavory people among the clergy. We know about them — and how some of them have upset people, used to upset the Imam, upset the nation. However, this is no reason why the institution of the clergy, the organization of the clergy should be questioned. Of course, unsavory people exist. In the main, they are people who have decided to deviate from the true path of the clergy. Otherwise, that clergy that has been following the true path of the eminent Imam is, God be praised, good. We pray that God will guide all of us and give us success. [passage omitted]

Envoy at UN Reportedly Praises Work of IAEA

LD0211142595 Tehran IRNA in English
0824 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 2, IRNA — Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi here at the UN General Assembly session on Wednesday [1 November] appreciated International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for its efforts in promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.

Kharrazi said at the session, which was held to air annual report of IAEA for the year 1994, "exceptional cases of violation of IAEA safeguards in the recent past have provided an excuse for the certain nuclear weapon states and some other industrialized countries to undermine the statutory tasks and obligations of the agency and infringe more than before upon the inalienable rights of the parties to the NPT including the Islamic Republic of Iran whose modest peaceful nuclear activities have always been approved by the agency."

Another issue in the activities of the agency during this period, he added, has been the development of a strengthened safeguards regime.

He said that Iranian officials welcomed the measures and decisions taken by the agency to maintain and strengthen the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the safeguards system.

Iran as an original signatory of Non-Proliferation Treaty, continued the Iranian official, has always adhered to the agency's safeguards and will continue to support its effectiveness and cost efficiency of the safeguards system.

Kharrazi remarked that Iranian Government has pursued an open and transparent policy in this respect, and based on this policy, took the initiative to invite the agency twice to visit the nuclear facilities in Iran and verify their peaceful utilization.

Subsequently, he added, IAEA missions visited Iran in February 1992 and November 1993 and verifications were established to the satisfaction of the agency. He cited that those two visits were in addition to routine inspections that were conducted regularly by IAEA.

Elsewhere in his speech, Kharrazi said that Tehran commended the efforts of the International Atomic energy Agency (IAEA) in enhancing nuclear safety and radiation protection, particularly in the countries of the former USSR.

"We firmly believe that the scope of such measures should be expanded to all regions that operate nuclear installations. For the risks to life, health, environment and security emanating from such installations are not confined to national boundaries. In this regard, a matter of great concern for Middle Eastern countries is the continued operation of the un-safeguarded, antiquated, and entirely non-peaceful Demona nuclear reactor in Israel.

We call upon the international community and in particular IAEA to address this problem and effectively," stressed the Iranian representative.

Kharrazi announced that Iran as a country that initiated in 1974 the proposal for establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East continues to support this initiative and is prepared to consider any constructive idea for its actual realization under UN auspices.

"As long as Israel, with full support of certain powers, refuses to join NPT and IAEA safeguards regime, the Middle East nuclear weapon free zone remains a distant goal," warned the Iranian envoy.

In this respect, he concluded, the decision of the thirty eighth session of the General Conference of IAEA to restore technical assistance to Israel is nothing but a reward to a nuclear proliferator and a tacit approval of the said regime's access to nuclear weapons.

Envoy in Afghanistan Refutes Taleban Allegations

NC2710214895 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
22 Oct 95 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Iran's Consul General in Herat, Afghanistan, Mohammad 'Alavizadeh, yesterday refuted the Taleban's allegation that Iran had trained and armed a group of Afghanis and dispatched them to Herat.

The Taleban Spokesman, 'Abdol Mannan Niazi earlier in an interview with the BCC radio's Persian service claimed that Iran had sent rocket launchers and other ammunitions to Herat.

On the Taleban's allegation, 'Alavizadeh, talking to the TEHRAN TIMES, said, "On the request of the Herat governor, I met him and explained to him that Iran has not and will not interfere in Afghan internal affairs."

"The governor showed to me some Iran-made ammunition and claimed that the Taleban had seized them from some Afghanis trained in Iran over the past few weeks," 'Alavizadeh said.

"I categorically refuted the allegation. Indeed, Iran had given a considerable amount of ammunition to the Afghan Mujahidin during their struggle against the Red Army's occupation of Afghanistan," he said adding, some of the ammunitions have naturally remained in Afghanistan. So it is not difficult to make baseless claims on the basis of the existing Iranian ammunitions in Afghanistan.

Iran reiterates its stance vis-a-vis the Afghan crisis, i.e., non-interference in Afghan internal affairs, he said, adding, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has several times reiterated this stance.

Ministry 'Source' Denies Afghanistan Interference

LD2910133495 Tehran IRNA in English
0758 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — Iran's policy toward Afghanistan is based on the principle of non-interference in that country and the restoration of peace and stability there, underlined an informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The source, quoted by the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES on Sunday [29 October], was responding to recent baseless claims made by some Pakistani newspapers alleging Iran's intervention in Afghanistan.

"Iran has tried to use its spiritual influence in that country to help settle the problem peacefully," he said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has had good relations with all Afghan groups and all neighboring countries," he said, adding, Tehran is not happy with those neighbors trying to fan the flames of war in Afghanistan.

The Pashto-language daily WAHADAT claimed on Thursday that India had transferred some armaments via Iran to Afghanistan, TEHRAN TIMES wrote.

The source categorically denied any transfer of arms or the dispatch of foreign military experts from Iranian territory to Afghanistan.

Nation's 'Friendly' Afghan Policy Said Welcomed

LD2910133795 Tehran IRNA in English
1105 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — The Afghan people welcomes the friendly policy taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing peace and security in that country, wrote an Afghan journal.

The Kabul-based fortnightly "PALWASHA" wrote in its recent issue that the people of Afghanistan are also completely sure that bilateral friendship and fraternity will be increasingly strengthened.

The journal added that in these sensitive times when both countries are confronted with foreign plots and instigations, the Afghan people expect Iran to enforce mutual friendship and brotherly ties.

It further added that Iran and Afghanistan share many links including blood, race and language and the similarity in the culture of both countries has provided a suitable ground for a consolidated relationship.

The PALWASHA said that Afghanistan is asking neighboring states for frienship and fraternity, but some of the adjacent countries are snobbing [as received] this request.

TV Reports on Turkish Envoy's Remarks on Ties

LD2910143695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last night the Turkish parliament renewed for another three months the permit for the deployment of the multinational air force in that country. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question from the Central News Unit's correspondent about the reason for the renewal of the presence of the multinational force, known as Poised Hammer, in northern Iraq, Mithat Balkan, Turkish ambassador in Tehran, said: Saddam Husayn's threat against the Kurds and the presence of the forces of the Kurdistan Workers Party in southern Turkey are the two factors which made us renew the presence of the multinational force in the region.

He added: The threat posed by Saddam is still there and — in order to provide guarantees to the Kurdish opponents of the Iraqi Government — Turkey renewed the presence of the Poised Hammer forces. The Turkish ambassador added: Iraq's territorial integrity is important to us and the presence of the multinational force is aimed solely at confronting the threat posed by Iraq.

Mithat Balkan said that the multinational force uses only 30 fighter planes in the region and expressed the opinion that the presence of the multinational force in the region is symbolic in nature.

Regarding border and security issues between Iran and Turkey, the Turkish ambassador said: No new agreement has been signed with Iran on these issues. The two countries have resolved problems by occasional exchanges of delegations.

In reply to a question from a Central News Unit correspondent about the opinion of the Turkish Government on the recent trade embargo imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States, Mithat Balkan said: The United States embarked on imposing an economic embargo on Iran without consulting or coordinating with its friends and allies. As a result of this, no political or economic party, apart from the Israeli regime, fell into step with this embargo. He said: Not only has Ankara not joined the embargo, but — after it was announced — it acted toward signing an agreement for the transfer of natural gas from Iran to Turkey.

Parliamentary Group Said To Oversee Azeri Elections

LD2910233395 Tehran IRNA in English 2152 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Astara (Gilan), Oct 29 (IRNA) — An Iranian parliamentary group is to leave Tehran for Baku soon to supervise Azerbaijan's parliamentary elections.

Iranian Ambassador to Baku 'Ali Reza Bikdeli made the remarks in an interview with Baku-based daily AINEH today in the Azeri capital.

The first ever parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan following the Soviet collapse and the independence of the country, are to be held on 12 November 1995.

Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev will pay a visit to Tehran in the near future to pave the way for further expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bigkeli announced.

He also added that during the visit to Iran of the Azeri president, an Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Commission will be set up to review economic cooperation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls for expanded relations with its neighbors, particularly in the economic area, but such relations with the Republic of Armenia depends upon the Armenian withdrawal from the Azeri lands, Bigkeli concluded.

Velayati, Turkmen Minister View Tajik Peace Talks

LD0111184895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Boris Shikhmuradov, Turkmenistan's foreign minister and deputy prime minister, held a telephone conversation this afternoon with our country's foreign affairs minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

They spoke about the expansion of bilateral ties and regional cooperation. They also expressed the hope that the fifth round of Tajik peace talks may be held as soon as possible so as to bring about lasting peace in that country.

Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri Visits Ireland

LD0111112895 Tehran IRNA in English 1051 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dublin, Nov. 1, IRNA — Iran's Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, arrived here Tuesday

[31 October] night on the second leg of his 3- nation tour which will also take him to Qatar.

The Majles speaker was welcomed at the airport by his Irish counterpart, Sean Treacy, other senior officials of the republic and some Iranian citizens in this country.

Nateq-Nuri is due to meet with Irish President Mary Robinson and with the prime minister, as well as with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dick Spring.

Minister of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq, Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza [as received] Foruzesh, President of Iran's Chamber of Commerce 'Ali-Naqi Khamushi, Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi and a number of Majles deputies are accompanying Nateq-Nuri on his trip to Ireland.

Holds Talks With Counterpart

LD0111121495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first round of talks between Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles, and his Irish counterpart in Dublin, the two sides discussed how the two countries could cooperate in the parliamentary, political, and cultural fields. The focus of the talks was expansion of bilateral ties.

According to the Central News Unit's correspondent, at the meeting, Mr. Nateq-Nuri considered that the exchange of visits and meetings between the two countries' officials were effective in consolidating and increasing relations and ties. He said: Taking note of regional and world developments, the continuation of such visits and discussions become more necessary.

The speaker of the Majles expressed the hope that the talks and exchanges of political viewpoints will be a source of economic and trade benefits for the two countries.

During his stay in Ireland, Mr. Nateq-Nuri is due to visit the Irish Senate and to meet and confer with the Senate Speaker. He will also be meeting the head of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Irish Parliament to discuss issues of mutual interests.

Majles Deputy Comments on Forthcoming Elections

LD0111195695 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA — Once again some intellectual circles have set forth the idea of separation of religion from politics which was declared vain and void by Imam Khomeyni, Tehran's representative in Majles, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, said.

In an interview with the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' printed on Wednesday [1 November], Bahonar noted that such people failed to grasp the concept of 'velayat' (guardianship), believing that public vote gives legitimacy to 'vali faqih' (the supreme jurisprudent) and setting limits for his authorities.

Anothr group, he said, believe in 'vali faqih' but maintain that he should not interfere in executive affairs, yet the aim of all of them is to distance 'velayat' from the Islamic system and separate religion from politics, argued the Majles deputy.

Followers of the supreme jurisprudent maintain that the power vested on the 'vali faqih' was a divine right bestowed by the almighty to his vice-regent who executes the divine commandments on earth, Bahonar pointed out.

"They regard the leader as a symbol of spirituality and unity only, but, we will have no problem with those who accept the absolute rule of the 'vali faqih," Bahonar said.

As an example, he cited the liberals, the liberation movement, certain left wing elements such as the 'SALAM' daily and some of those in charge of the 'ASRE-MA' weekly.

'Velaiat faqih' is sacred and whoever ignores it in the fifth Majles will be faced with requisite measures and will most probably be isolated," Bahonar said adding, "the important consideration for us is to stop the said elements from attaining such goals."

The deputy added that no political problem in the sense of factionalism existed in the present Majles, as all deputies collaborate to resolve the problems.

Any possible differences of views among the deputies or between the Majles and the government would be resovled through dialogs without reaching the Majles tribune or leaking into the press, stressed Bahonar.

According to the leader's statement on May 28, 1995, ethics and politics have been intertwined in the Majles to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect, wrote the paper.

Bahonar, a member of the Majles commission for economy and finance and board of management, said that he believed personally that "left and right wings in the western sense do not exist in the Majles."

"There were only some different tastes in regard to economic issues (as to what portion of the affairs should be privatized or taken by the government) which date back to the time of the former Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi," Bahonar stressed. He added that over the years, such differences have been ironed out and were now very minimal.

Thus in the fifth Majles, he remarked, there would be no such factionalism and divisions into the left and the right wings. In the present Majles, any existing problem might have a sentimental nature, stemming from the fact that some who previously held posts were no longer in the same capacities.

On the forthcoming presidential elections, he said that ulema must be elected for several future terms, because people believe in them and because there are many influential centers in the country which can be activated by ulema only.

He termed possible the coalition of the left wing and the liberals in the next parliamentary elections and noted that if this happens, they should review and revise many of their stances and address many questions.

But their coalition would not endure and they would face problems with the public opinion due to their past views and standpoints, he concluded.

Paper Lauds Outcome of Tehran University Meeting

NC0111095895 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Oct 95 p 1

[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarluyi: "An Auspicious Experiment"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 1. Yesterday noon a gathering of students took place in front of the Technical Department of the University of Tehran in relation to discussions that have been taking place during the last two weeks. The students' orderly, disciplined, and alert presence at this gathering, which was a manifestation of political maturity, should be considered an auspicious experiment.

Two students spoke at the gathering. Their speeches revealed two sensitivities on the problems of our society. The first sensitivity was on safeguarding the values and defending the ideological basis of the system vis-a-vis what is seen as liberalization and secularization of the rule.

The second sensitivity was the need for society's lawfulness, stressing the need to observe the constitution, freedom of speech, and tolerance for others' views.

Both sensitivities are laudable and were the elements that led to the student gathering at the university.

2. Although the Ansar-e Hezbollah issued a statement saying that they would not attend the gathering, one of the two speakers was a committed supporter of the Ansar-e Hezbollah who had been invited to speak by the Islamic Society of Tehran University. [passage omitted]

3. Yesterday's gathering was a gathering which observed Islamic standards because the ugly slogans that were heard in the Technical Department's auditorium some time ago were not repeated and the air was filled with the beautiful shouts of "God is Great."

This gathering can be considered as a big step toward politicization of the university and the passage to the students of an understanding of the very sensitive intellectual, political, social, and cultural issues.

The fact that the students were a very good example of patience and respect for each others' views at yesterday's gathering shows that a new and auspicious chapter has been opened in student movements.

The students have entered a serious field, something which was possibly unprecedented in the last two decades, and they are speaking about freedom of speech, social discipline, and refraining from violence.

The students' emphasis now is on freedom of speech while safeguarding respected principles. The students' emphasis now is on the fact that their gatherings should have a revolutionary color with one of its characteristics being the safeguarding of Islamic beliefs. The students' emphasis now is that discussions should have the values of the system as their pivot, that the principles of Islam should be obeyed, and that the line of the Imam and of the leader should be observed.

Pakistan

Minister Welcomes U.S. Vote on Brown Amendment

BK2510143695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Joint Committee of the American Congress has called for the abolition of Pressler Law, which prohibits the sale of military hardware to Pakistan. Talking to our representative Khalida Mazhar on the Brown Amendment, [Foreign Minister] Sardar Asif Ali had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Ali] Well, first of all I will like to say that the whole nation deserves congratulations from us, and indeed we rejoice at the success of Pakistan's diplomacy, which was initiated by the president's visit to the USA; but the major breakthrough came when the prime minister visited the USA and had a meeting with President Bill Clinton, and the intensive lobbying in the

U.S. Congress and in the U.S. media. And, of course, we at the Foreign Office and myself, we had to work very hard, and our ambassador in the USA also worked very, very hard for this. And, I would like to here pay tribute also to the parliament in Pakistan and all the political leaders, and most of all the media in Pakistan, which played a very positive role in the success of Pakistan's foreign policy objectives.

[Mazhar] What does this bill intend for Pakistan?

[Ali] Well, in real terms this bill endorses a release of economic assistance, which includes overseas private investment funding, international military education and training, antiterrorism assistance, aviation safety, immigration and customs procedures, peacekeeping, promotion of trade and investments — in economic field.

In the military field, it will mean the release of equipment — military equipment — other than the F-16's for which we had already paid, transfer of technology and defense services for this equipment, exemption of storage charges [of held military equipment] and, of course, international military and technical education. So, these are the broad aspects of the Pressler Amendment, as now modified by the Brown Amendment.

[Mazhar] Has the passage of the Brown Amendment paved the ways of cooperation between Pakistan and the USA?

[Ali] Yes, I think this is a very important and a landmark event that has taken place between the two countries; and we can now look forward to a very cordial and a fruitful relationship. I would like to pay a tribute here to the U.S. Administration, especially the secretary of defense, secretary of state, secretary of interior, secretary of energy and to the leaders of the Congress; and, here I would like to pay a tribute, a special tribute, to Senator Hank Brown, to Senator Bob Dole, to Senator Helms and other Congressional leaders, as well as to officials like Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel and Mr. Peter Turnoff. And, along with this, I like to thank the Pakistani community, especially the physicians — Pakistan-American Physician Association — where many very eminent physicians and doctors of Pakistani origin made a significant contribution to our efforts.

Lastly, I would like to add that the modification of the law is a great vindication of Pakistan's honor because we have not compromised on our nuclear policy; and without compromising we have brought about, or helped to bring about, the change in the U.S. law. [end recording]

Good U.S. Ties Said in Nation's 'Own Interest'

BK2510115495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Report by Muhammad Rafiq Thaeem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Western information media have disclosed that the newly established sixth naval fleet of the United States of America will help CIA to act upon the plans of throwing out Iranian and Iraqi Governments and snatch the oil wealth of both these Muslim countries. American economists and defence strategists, after mutual consultations, have warned the U.S. Administration that armed steps should be taken in this respect without any further delay and setting up of the sixth naval fleet is being considered as a big development in this direction.

For the provision of necessary facilities to this fleet, America signed an agreement with India last month according to which American warships would be able to land and get fuel from three sea-ports of India, Bombay, Cochin and Gua. For the residential purposes of American army personnel, a U.S. base is already under construction in Hazarul Bateen, Saudi Arabia. To meet the other needs, the United States has selected the Karachi port and coastal areas of Baluchistan. For the construction of a big under-ground ammunition depot, the U.S. has marked the coastal area of Baluchistan because it is very near to the Persian Gulf. A retired Commodore of Pak Navy, Tariq Majid, has done lot of research on Pakistan's character in American planning and wrote a thesis, copies of which have been sent to all important personalities of the country. Some of its parts have already been published in a national daily and a weekly journal.

Commodore Tariq Majid has claimed that to dispossess Pakistan of its only seaport, the United States has planned the creation of two new states by dividing Karachi. One of these states will be comprised of western parts of the city including the part while the other one will be composed of the areas including Port Qasim. Commodore Majid further said that according to the plans. Port Qacim will be given in the control of Sindh temporarily and afterward it will be changed into a sovereign state under Indian yoke. He added that to make this state a pleasure dome for U.S. soldiers, the casino, which had been constructed in Zultiqar Ali Bhutto's era, will be restored and reconditioned in Clinton and in its surroundings many night clubs will also be constructed.

The learned scholar also said that U.S. plans enjoy full support of Israel and both the countries believe that they will face no difficulty in acting upon their plans to separate the port city of Karachi from Pakistan and dividing it into two sovereign states and only because of this confidence American companies are preparing to invest in Karachi and some Pakistanis, wanting good relationship with the United States and have also good relations with these companies, are already busy in purchasing properties on behalf of these economic giants of the west and the United States.

Commodore Tariq claims that he had smelt the smoke of the separation movement in 1982 and had told his colleagues during a discussion at National Defence College that such a movement would possibly start in Sindh. This prediction was made keeping in view the situation which had been created by Bhutto and Zia regimes, the retired Commodore added and said that only one-and-a-half years after this prediction, in August 1983, a large number of army soldiers had been killed in Nawabshah during the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] movement the nationalist Sindhis had been accused of these killings through the propaganda machinery of Israel but in fact it was done by the people trained by the Indian and Israeli secret agencies, claimed Commodore (Retd) Majid Tariq.

If these reports are true it is obvious that America is also involved in all the conspiracies against Pakistan and we should have no doubt about the reasons. Its one reason might be Pakistan's not reaching on any agreement with India according to the satisfaction of the United States because, in connection with the peace in South Asian region, it is most important for the U.S. that Pakistan and India have good relations. So, the U.S. Administration is fully involved in all the plans to make Pakistan a weak and impotent nation which rely for all its necessities against India. Because, the strong and powerful India could only be able to, stop any aggression from China, Pakistan has much less importance in the eyes of Americans. India has already signed a host of agreements with the U.S. which has accepted India as a guard of their interests in this region and a strong ally in the implementation of security policies for South Asia. By supporting the election process in occupied Kashmir, the U.S. has also proved that they cannot afford enmity with India.

Keeping in view all the above discussions, one may be right in assuming that the United States is sponsoring and backing terrorism in the industrial and economic capital of Pakistan, Karachi, as an instrument to pressurise Pakistan to agree with their plans. In these circumstances, talks between MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and Government are very important to solve the Karachi problem and all Pakistanis should pray for the success of these negotiations as this problem could be solved peacefully with the help of the citizens who are mostly supporters of MQM.

If the U.S. Administration is demanding army bases or other facilities for their armed forces in Pakistan, as it had been done during the Ayub Khan regime, we are not in a position to reject it at all. Because our rulers have been accepting all the conditions and demands of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to get loans, they have made financial institutions of Pakistan subsidiaries of these institutions. We should not hesitate to fulfil some of the U.S. demands to frustrate efforts to separate Karachi from Pakistan.

Therefore one may be right in making politicians and religious leaders not to issue statements and organise rallies against the United States. They should believe that Pakistan could be a friend of the United States like Turkey and Egypt and that all goes in our own interest.

Editorial Urges U.S. To Take Stand on Kashmir

BK3010020495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Position on Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As a follow-up to Prime Minister Ms Benzair Bhutto's address at the UN's special session, celebrating its 50th anniversary, during which she highlighted the Kashmir issue, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan has been meeting U.S. legislators and senior U.S. government officials. In his meeting with Ms Robin Raphel, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, he was reassured that the U.S. regarded Kashmir as a disputed territory, the future of which had yet to be settled in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. While this reiteration of the U.S. position rejects the Indian claim that Kashmir is an integral part of India and broadly supports Pakistan's contention that Kashmir is an unresolved part of the agenda under which the partition of the Subcontinent took place, it encourages the perception that it is only a bilateral dispute. That is why the U.S, as also quite a few other friends of Pakistan, keep telling us to talk to India. That suits India fine, because bilateralism by its very nature takes the issue out of the domain of Internationalism, to which the attention of other countries could be attracted. And in bilateral negotiations, India starts from the position that the future of Held Kashmir having already been settled in India's favour, negotiations can only be held about the future of Azad Kashmir. It is a Catch-22 position in which Pakistan is asked to talk to and, hopefully, persuades India to give up a territory which may not belong to it, but which it feels it needs to keep Pakistan under its thumb. Our friends assume that the moral high ground that Pakistan enjoys over India in this case, would be enough for India (which is four times bigger and as many times stronger than Pakistan) to give in and let Kashmir slip out of its grip. It is a futile hope. India is not likely to give an inch, morality or no morality. When war broke out in Bosnia, many countries of the world were led to believe that it was just a bilateral dispute between the Muslims and the Serbs. They sat around watching till the Serbs captured 70 percent of the territory and killed hundreds of thousands of Muslims. Then they had to intervene. The Indian troops have already killed forty thousand Kashmiris and burnt down or destroyed scores of villages. The world is still sitting around watching. No aggressor in world history has ever listened to the voice of reason. Why should India?

And there lies the catch in the argument that Pakistan should talk to India. The two have talked and talked for forty years. To what end? Pakistan's 'nonpapers' were lying with India when Narasimha Rao stood on the NAM [Non-Aligned Movement] platform the other day, thumping his chest and claiming that what he wanted to settle was Azad Kashmir. Let Ms Robin Raphel tell us how to talk to such a man. This is where the Pakistani-Americans can play a big role. When they, being much smaller in number (they are only four lakh against the Indian-American who number 1.5 million), could persuade the U.S congress to vote for the Brown Amendment because it was a moral issue, Kashmir is a moral issue too. If the Pakistanis living in the UK could prevail upon the Labour Party to include Kashmir in its manifesto, surely those living in the U.S can galvanise themselves to persuade the U.S Congress to do something about a very dangerous flash point that Kashmir happens to be.

Radio on Foreign Minister's Foreign Policy Views

BK0111150495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has expressed the hope that, within a couple of years, India will be forced to sit on the negotiating table and solve Kashmir issue according to the will of Kashmiris. In a lecture on Pakistan's foreign policy at (Kennerd) College, Lahore, he said the present government has successfully internationalized the Kashmir problem, contrary to the former government which did lip service only. He said due to world pressure, India has been forced to give concession to Kashmiri leaders.

About the Afghan issue, he criticized the Kabul administration that, instead of recognizing Pakistan's services during their struggle, they attacked Pakistani mission. The foreign minister said Pakistan is no more on the watch list of terrorist states, rather known as one fighting against terrorism and drug trafficking.

President, Uzbek Parliament Chairman Discuss Ties

BK3110005395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Uzbekistan and Pakistan have great potential for enhancement of trade and economic cooperation in some specific areas. He was talking to the parliamentary delegation of Uzbekistan, led by Chairman of the Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Erkin Khalilov who called on him in Islamabad today. The president hoped that establishment of the joint ministerial commission and financial institutions between the two countries will result in acceleration and improvement of cooperation in the agriculture, communications, and mining sectors. He said Uzbekistan and Pakistan have identical perceptions about security in the region and both want peace in Afghanistan. It should be on the basis of a just solution in which all ethnic groups are involved in the governing of their country.

The chairman of Uzbekistan parliament reciprocated the president's sentiments and said Uzbekistan wants to have very cordial relations and further trade and economic cooperation with Pakistan.

Radio Reports on Leghari's View on Karachi, Rupee

BK0111150195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the government is committed to uphold rule of law, dispense justice, and establish conducive law and order in the country. Talking to a cross section of people in Karachi today, he said all the resources are being used to control terrorism in Karachi. He said there has been some improvement in the situation, and many cadres of terrorists have either been arrested or neutralized. The president said there is no option to the settlement of Karachi problem except that all have to live in harmony. That is why political initiatives have been taken along with administrative measures.

The president said there is no doubt that Karachi has been made a target of terrorism, and once it is controlled there will be heavy flow of investment in the city. Most of the benefits of the investments, he said, will go to the unemployed youth. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari commended the role of police in controlling terrorism after the withdrawal of Army. He said 163 police personnel have so far been martyred in Karachi alone.

He described the devaluation of the rupee as a bold and difficult decision made by the government after due consideration.

Notables present at the meeting explained their views about the situation in the city and agreed that there had been improvement due to government measures. They thanked the president for taking interest in solving the Karachi problem. The Sindh governor, Mr. Kamal Azfar, and Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah were present.

Adviser Says Further Rupee Devaluation Possible

BK3110101095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Further Devaluation Possible: Jaffrey"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Advisor to prime minister for Economic Affairs V.A. Jaffrey has said that the decision to devalue the rupee was taken by Special Committee. He said that there is no need to obtain the approval of Cabinet and Assembly.

During the briefing after the Cabinet meeting, he said that rupee devaluation had become unavoidable in view of the increasing rate of trade deficit. In reply to a question, he said that this decision has connection with the budget. He said that the rupee can be further devalued if economic situation worsens.

'Top Killer' of Altaf Group Reportedly Killed

BK0111140595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, a top killer of Altaf Group—namely, Shakil alias Gader—along with two of his accomplices were killed in an encounter with a police party, where the fourth terrorist has been arrested. According to details, the terrorists were in house Number R-60, Sector 11-A, New Karachi, where the police of District Central conducted a raid and challenged to terrorists to surrender. However, the terrorists opened fire on the police party, as a result of which a police constable, Kazi Feroz, received firearm injuries. The police party also opened fire in self defense, resulting in the death of three terrorists — Shakil Gader, Dilshad Munna, and Hamidullah — while the fourth terrorist was arrested with a TT [expansion unknown] in his hands. Weapons included one SMG [submachine gun], one 7-mm rifle, one TT, and some looted ornaments and cash were found lying near the dead bodies.

Terrorist Shakil Gader was notoriously known as a special killer of Altaf Group. He was wanted in many cases of murder, assault on police, and using rocket launchers at the police stations and ranger posts. These cases included: murder of a head constable, Tariq Jalal, in 1994—in which Shakil Gader took away the deceased official's SMG recovered this morning; killing of six persons found in a wagon on 14 August 1995 with a chit for [Interior Minister] Nasirullah Babar; nine murders committed in buffer zone area of District Central; and firing of rocket launchers at the New Karachi police station. He was also involved in firing rockets at the rangers headquarters in District Central on 17 October 1995, which resulted in serious injuries to Captain Iftikhar, who later died in the hospital.

Minister's Comments on Karachi Talks Reported

BK3110143395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, has impressed upon Altaf Group to immediately resume talks on the Karachi situation. Prof. N.D. Khan, who is also the leader of the government's side at the talks with the Altaf Group, was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon.

The government, he said, is sincere and serious in finding a negotiated settlement of the Karachi situation, and it was Altaf Group which was using delaying tactics on one pretext or the other. He said the chief of the negotiating team of Altaf Group, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, has written him an 11-page letter and has asked for a positive reply. Mr. N.D. Khan said he would sent the reply within three or four days. However, he said, instead of wasting time in writing letters and getting the replies, Altaf Group should come to the negotiating table, as the Karachi issue could only be resolved through parleys.

The minister said law and order situation in Karachi has improved and Altaf Group is now indulging in strikes to cripple the economy of the country. He called upon the political parties to take a national stand on the Karachi issue and force Altaf Group to come to the negotiating table.

'Special Force' Said Formed To Eliminate 'Terrorism'

BK2910081395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for interior, Mr. Nasirullah Babar, has said a special force has been set up to eliminate terrorism. Talking to newsmen in Naushehra yesterday, he said half of the notorious terrorists have been arrested and the remaining would be arrested very soon. Peace in Karachi would return within a short span of time, he added. He described terrorism as a conspiracy against the solidarity of the country and main hurdle to foreign investment and said the government would not bow before terrorists.

The PPP [Pakistan People's Party] members of Sindh assembly have described the strike called by Altaf Group for today as a new conspiracy against the peaceful, law abiding, and patriotic Pakistanis. In a statement in Karachi yesterday, they said that Altaf Group is itself responsible for excesses and bloodshed. It has launched false propaganda to deceive the people. They appealed to the people to frustrate the machinations of Altaf Group.

Report on Resolutions by Human Rights Commission

BK3010031595 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Oct 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyderabad, Oct 27 — A general body meeting of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (Sindh), held here at the Hyderabad Press Club on Friday [27 October], discussed a four-point agenda which included the prevalent situation in Karachi and Hyderabad as well as in the rest of the province, harassment of journalists particularly in the interior of Sindh, prison reforms and rehabilitation of bonded laborers. It adopted eight resolutions.

The vice chairperson of the commission, Saleem Asmi, presided over the meeting which was attended among others by the secretary general of the commission Zohra Vousuf, Iqbal Jafri, Rasool Bux Palejo and Professor Mushtaq Mirani.

The resolutions:

— Called for an end to the killing of people in the custody of rangers and police, as well as in fake encounters throughout Sindh, and the appointment of a high level judicial commission to investigate all custodial deaths, affix responsibility on persons responsible for such killings, and register cases against them under the relevant laws.

— Criticised the practice of calling frequent strikes as well as ever increasing terrorist, activities and demanded and end to such perpetual harassment of citizens.

— Demanded end to illegal arrests and wrongful confinements in Sindh, including the arrest of the next of kin of "wanted" persons if they could not be traced.

— Took strong exception to the extraction of "Bhatta" [extortion money] and demanded that this practice be stopped and people be protected against this perpetual harassment. The meeting demanded deterrent punishment to political and other groups involved in this practice.

— Expressed concern over the registration of "false" cases, victimisation, pressurisation, arrest and harassment of newsmen throughout the province and demanded a stop to the practice so that journalists could perform their professional duties with full freedom.

— Stressed on the need for radical reforms in the jail system and provision of facilities to prisoners in accordance with the jail manual. The resolution sold instead of converting jails into criminal training centers, they should be turned into reformatories to improve the character and moral of the inmates.

— Observed that throughout Sindh tens of thousands of Haris and other workers were bought and enslaved, even though the practice was banned by law. The resolution demanded that the government help free the bonded labour and Haris from the clutches of feudal lords and capitalists and rehabilitate them by providing them opportunities of employment and taking other necessary steps for their welfare.

— Expressed concern over the inordinate delay in the framing of legislation under the Bonded Labour Abolition Act 1992 and demanded that they be framed without any further delay and then strictly enforced.

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